



ROBERT M. BELL

CHIEF JUDGE

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

ROBERT C. MURPHY COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING

361 ROWE BOULEVARD

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1699

December 1, 2000

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Judgeship Needs for Fiscal Year 2002

Gentlemen:

In accordance with established procedure, the Judiciary submits the *Annual Certification of Needs for Additional Judgeships for Fiscal Year 2002*.

As part of the certification process, the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals requested consideration for additional judgeships for the intermediate appellate court. While we lack an existing methodology to determine the need for appellate judgeships, our statistical analysis indicates marked growth in factors affecting the Court's workload. Despite this preliminary finding, we will not request judgeships for the Court of Special Appeals at this time, but we will propose additional staff attorney resources with a fuller utilization of their services and the use of two designated retired appellate judges to assist the Court. The efficacy of these additional support resources will be evaluated fully over the course of the next year and we will revisit the need for additional judgeships as part of our FY 2003 certification process, as well as consider the pressing issue of additional space requirements within the current Courts of Appeal facility, to accommodate these positions.

Within the circuit courts, recent appellate decisions and amendments to Maryland Rule 9-207, relating to the authority of standing masters, implement a policy first recommended by the Conference of Circuit Judges that establishes judges at the center of the adjudication process in family law matters. This policy was adopted by the Judiciary as part of its Circuit Courts Action Plan which was endorsed by the General Assembly during its 2000 Session. Implementation of this policy requires the acquisition of additional judgeships over the next several years. As such and in support of the Circuit Courts Action Plan, we request the General Assembly establish judgeships in the Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Montgomery, Prince George's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City. In

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addition, it is anticipated that legislation will be introduced to transfer juvenile jurisdiction from the District Court to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. In support of the transfer, the Judiciary has developed an implementation plan over a two-year period, which includes the addition of two judgeships in Fiscal Year 2002 and two judgeships in Fiscal Year 2003. As a result, we request fourteen (14) additional judgeships be established in the Circuit Courts in FY 2002.

The Judiciary also requests five (5) additional judgeships in the District Court due to its escalating dependence on retired judges; the increase in civil jurisdiction, which necessitates increased judicial time for civil matters; and the rise in more complicated civil litigation. Chief Judge Rasin expands on the need for these judgeships in her supporting documentation (Exhibit B).

JURISDICTION	CIRCUIT COURT	DISTRICT COURT
Anne Arundel County	2	
Baltimore City	2	1
Baltimore County	2	
Calvert County	1	
Montgomery County	4	1
Prince George's County	2	1
St. Mary's County		1
Worcester County	1	1
Total	14	5

In conclusion, the Judiciary is requesting a total of nineteen (19) new judgeships for Fiscal Year 2002. These additional resources will enable the Judiciary to meet the challenging demands of treating family law cases more holistically in the Circuit Courts and the growing complexity of cases and expenditure of judicial time in the District Court. Please call upon me if you need further information.

Respectfully yours,



Robert M. Bell

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cc: Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor
Honorable Barbara A. Hoffman, Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Honorable Walter M. Baker, Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Honorable Howard P. Rawlings, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Honorable Gloria Lawlah, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Honorable Joan Cadden, House Appropriations Committee
Honorable William D. Schaefer, State Comptroller
Honorable Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals
Honorable Martha F. Rasin, Chief Judge, District Court
Honorable Paul H. Weinstein, Chairman, Conference of Circuit Judges
Honorable T. Eloise Foster, Secretary, Department of Budget
and Management
Circuit Administrative Judges
Honorable Donna G. Burch, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Joseph C. Bryce, Chief Legislative Officer
Stephen E. Harris, Esq., State Public Defender
Frank Broccolina, State Court Administrator
Karl S. Aro, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Reference
Stephanie Ennel, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management
Cynthia Boersma, Administrative Analyst, Department of Fiscal Services

ANALYSIS OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS

Fiscal Year 2002

December 1, 2000

Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judicial Center
581 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 260-1290

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Exhibit A

Court of Special Appeals - Certification Process

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS - CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND ANALYSIS

For the last twenty-three (23) years, the Court of Special Appeals has managed an increasing and varying caseload with a constant number of judges through innovative management techniques, including extensive reliance on retired judges. Realizing that a more scientific approach was needed to determine judicial need, the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals requested an examination of the Court's caseload. Lacking an existing certification methodology to determine appellate judgeships, the Administrative Office of the Courts analyzed several facets of the Court's workload, including filings, cases argued, opinions written, and the expenditure of time between filing and disposition of cases.

As a result, the data presented illustrate that since the acquisition of its thirteenth judge, the Court has experienced increases in total filings; cases argued or submitted on brief; the average time from argument to decision; the number of pre-hearing conferences; the applications for leave to appeal; and pending cases. The workload information has been organized around four critical events: (1) the acquisition of the thirteenth judge - 1977; (2) the introduction of pre-hearing conferences - 1980; (3) removal of the right of direct appeal from guilty pleas - 1983; and (4) removal of the right of direct appeal from violations of probation - 1991. While several of these case management interventions have stabilized the criminal docket, the court's total workload has exceeded prior case activity levels. The Court is supported by a cadre of staff attorneys who are assigned to assist the Court in the management of its workload which also is supported by the use of retired judges. Recently, two retired appellate judges have been designated to the Court for the purposes of providing additional experienced judicial resources to supplement the current bench.

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS STATISTICS

CASES FILED ON THE REGULAR DOCKET			
TERM	TOTAL FILINGS	CIVIL	CRIMINAL
1977	1,412	728	684
1980*	1,722	902	820
1981	1,742	872	870
1982	1,968	861	1,107
1983**	1,777	850	927
1984	1,642	891	751
1990	2,035	950	1,085
1991***	1,956	933	1,023
1992	2,031	1,076	955
1999	1,998	1,260	738

*During the 1980 Term, the Court started using pre-hearing conferences to identify civil cases suitable for resolution by the parties.

**Effective July 1, 1983, the right to a direct appeal to the Court from a guilty plea was removed.

***Effective July 1, 1991, violations of probation were removed from the direct appeal docket.

The filing information indicates that immediately following the year the pre-hearing conference procedure was implemented, the number of civil filings decreased; however, since that time a net increase has occurred. In the criminal area, a decrease was noted in the year following the removal of the right to a direct appeal from a guilty plea, but criminal filings then began to rise again until violations of probation also were removed from the direct appeal docket. Since 1991, criminal filings have decreased significantly. Overall, filings have increased with civil filings contributing significantly to that increase.

AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS FOR CASES DISPOSED ON THE REGULAR DOCKET — IN MONTHS		
FISCAL YEAR	DOCKETING TO ARGUMENT	ARGUMENT TO DECISION
1991	5.7	1.4
1992	6.0	1.4
1999	4.7	2.6
2000	4.6	3.0

The average time from docketing to argument has decreased slightly since the last judge was added to the Court of Special Appeals. During the same period, the average time expended from argument to decision has increased. That increase may be correlated directly to the increasing complexity of the caseload; however, there currently is no way to measure the

complexity of cases in the appellate courts. The increase in elapsed time has occurred over the last three years, while there was not a corresponding rise in filings during that period.

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE STATISTICS			
TERM	REPORTS RECEIVED	PHC HELD	% CONFERENCES HELD
1980	818	166	20.3
1981	1,082	315	29.1
1982	1,071	374	34.9
1983	1,103	462	41.9
1984	1,087	453	41.7
1987	1,042	327	31.4
1988	1,139	370	32.5
1989	1,090	254	23.3
1990	1,184	338	28.5
1991	1,280	578	45.2
1992	1,344	620	46.1
1998	1,668	419	25.1
1999	1,299	310	23.9

Since the pre-hearing conference procedure was first implemented during the 1980 Term, the number of information reports received has increased and during that same period, the number of conferences held increased. Contrastingly, over the last two years the percentage of conferences held with respect to reports received has decreased. During the conferences, the attorneys meet with individual judges, generally based on geographical location, in an attempt to resolve or limit issues. If the matters are not resolved, the case is placed on a subsequent docket and counted as a filing. This procedure requires additional judicial time initially, but saves time during the actual argument phase. Statistics are not available with respect to the time expended to conduct the conferences.

APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL DISPOSED			
FISCAL YEAR	# DISPOSED	# GRANTED	% GRANTED
1983	128	20	15.6
1984	308	22	7.1
1990	204	19	9.3
1991	254	29	11.4
1992	193	14	7.3

Exhibit A

1998	428	12	2.8
1999	392	13	3.3
2000	324	13	4.0

While the number of applications for leave to appeal disposed since 1983 when guilty pleas were removed from the direct appeal docket has increased; during that same period, the number of applications granted and transferred to the regular docket decreased. When applications for leave to appeal are filed, they are forwarded to the staff attorneys who prepare recommendations for the panel of judges who render the final decision to grant or deny the application.

Exhibit A-1

Comments of the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals

The Honorable Joseph F. Murphy, Jr.
 Chief Judge
 Court of Special Appeals of Maryland
 401 Bosley Avenue, Room 503
 Towson, Maryland 21204
 (410) 887-3206
 fax (410-296-7638)

October 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge
 Court of Appeals of Maryland

Re: Additional Judges for the Court of Special Appeals

Since a thirteenth judge was added in 1977, and through the Court's 1998-1999 term, as is shown by the Cases Docketed Table that appears below: cases docketed have increased from 1416 to 1962 (a 39% increase), cases disposed have increased from 1369 to 1863 (a 36% increase), opinions filed have increased from 911 to 1383 (a 52% increase--and an increase from 70 to 106 per year per judge), and miscellaneous docket cases disposed of have increased from 173 to 392. Civil cases, which are generally more complicated than criminal cases, have increased by 62% from 751 in 1978-1979 to 1,219 in 1998-1999, and now comprise 61% of the total cases, as opposed to 53% in 1978-1979.

CASES DOCKETED

1978-1979	Term	1998-1999
665	Criminal	743
<u>751</u>	Civil	<u>1219</u>
1416	Total	1962

The increase is actually more dramatic than the table shows because, in 1978-1979, direct appeals were permitted from guilty pleas and revocation of probation cases. In 1983, the General Assembly restricted the right of appeal following a guilty plea, and in 1991, the General Assembly restricted the right of appeal in revocation of probation cases.

From July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999, we received 122 applications for leave to appeal from persons who had entered a guilty plea, and 70 applications for leave to appeal from persons whose probation had been revoked. During that same period of time, we also received 358 applications for leave to appeal judgments entered in post-conviction cases, and panels of the Court disposed of 392 "Miscellaneous Docket" cases - including applications for leave to appeal from the denial of habeas corpus and applications for leave to appeal judgments entered in Inmate Grievance cases.

The number of cases that are assigned is a more appropriate benchmark than is the number of cases that are *filed*.¹ Over the years, the number of cases set in for argument has increased

¹Neither of these numbers, of course, tells the whole story. For example, a panel must consider motions for reconsideration filed by parties who seek reconsideration of a dispositive pre-assignment ruling made by me or a designated member of the Court. (Reconsideration is almost always sought by our ever increasing number of *pro se* litigants.) Moreover, since July of 1988, our judges have conducted Prehearing Conferences. While many of these conferences have been successful in settling cases, narrowing issues on appeal, and/or identifying issues that required a remand to the circuit court, almost all of them require a considerable amount of the judge's time. 310 such conferences were conducted from March 1, 1999 through February 29, 2000.

because of the fact that so many cases present the panels with a large number of complex and time-consuming issues. The table that appears below shows the number of appeals assigned to panels during the last three terms:

CASES ASSIGNED TO PANELS

Term	Cases Argued	Cases SOB	Total
1997 (9/97-8/98)	888	684	1572
1998 (9/98-8/99)	924	630	1554
1999 (9/99-8/00)	917	606	1523

During September Term, 1997, and September Term, 1998, our Court averaged 98 written opinions per active judge; during September Term, 1999, the average was 96 opinions per active judge. During September Term, 1997, 86 "visiting" judges wrote a total of 301 opinions; during September Term, 1998, 82 visiting judges wrote a total of 283 opinions; and during September Term, 1999, 81 visiting judges wrote a total of 274 opinions. If no visiting judges had been assigned, the caseload for our authorized judges would have averaged 121 opinions per judge in September Term, 1997; 120 opinions per judge in September Term, 1998; and 117 opinions per judge in September Term, 1999.

At your convenience, please let me know whether additional documentation is required to certify the need for additional judges for the Court of Special Appeals. I will be happy to provide it.

Respectfully submitted,

JFM

/bas

CC Mr. Frank Broccolina, State Court Administrator

Exhibit A-2

Trial Courts - Certification Process

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

At the suggestion of the Legislative Policy Committee, the Maryland Judiciary began an annual procedure of formally certifying to the General Assembly the need for additional judges on January 4, 1979. Since implementation, the process has allowed the Judiciary the opportunity to present the need for judgeships annually based on a review of comprehensive factors relating to the capacity with which the State's judicial system is able to process cases in a timely and equitable manner.

Three different steps are involved in the Chief Judge's Certification Process. The starting point and the subject of this report is an analysis prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Information relating to actual and projected filings, the number of pending cases per judge, the number of dispositions per judge, the ratio of attorneys to judges, the time required for civil, criminal, and juvenile cases from filing through disposition, and the population per judge are compiled and reviewed. Caseload projections are then applied to these data and preliminary trends are identified. It is important to emphasize that these indicators are only precursory and are meant to act only as a starting point in determining the need for additional judicial positions.

The second phase of the certification process involves the local trial courts. It is at this stage of development, after reviewing the preliminary analysis and assessing local factors unique to a particular court, that each Circuit Administrative Judge responds to the need for additional judgeships. In preparation of this response, the Circuit Administrative Judge is advised to: (1) seek the views of individual County Administrative Judges; (2) solicit opinions from members of the bench and bar from that county; and (3) consult with State and local legislators, and other individuals involved with providing local funding support. Based on a thorough review of the local situation, and other pertinent factors that may support the need for increased judicial resources, the Circuit Administrative Judge is asked to address the following points:

- If there is agreement with the information indicating a need for additional resources, are there physical facilities and available local financial support for additional judgeships? Does the local delegation of State legislators support this need? What is the position of the local bar and others who might be called upon to support the request for an additional judgeship?
- If there is disagreement with the analysis against additional judges, what factors support this view? Are all caseflow management procedures being utilized in order to minimize the need for more judges (e.g., inter- or intra-circuit assignment, District Court judges, or retired judges).
- If there is disagreement with an indication suggesting the need for additional judges, what factors support this view (e.g., the availability of inter- or intra-circuit assignments or the use of District Court or retired judges, the lack of physical facilities or the lack of fiscal support, improved administrative procedures, etc.)?

The final phase of the certification plan occurs when the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals reviews the responses from administrative judges, as well as the preliminary analysis. Before making a final decision, the Chief Judge also may discuss the request further with the administrative judge or other informed sources. Final certification is then forwarded to the legislative leadership based on a distillation of all the information available.

II. METHODOLOGY FOR ANALYSIS

To identify a basis for the need for judgeships, a variety of factors influencing the workload and performance of the courts assesses the need of each jurisdiction. The efficacy of these factors are considered in light of case filing projections developed for the out-years and then applied comparatively to a particular filing to judge standard. If this relative analysis indicates a need for an additional judgeship, it is likely that a strong statistical need exists for an additional judgeship in that jurisdiction.

In instances where there exists a clearly defined lack of statistical need, the confluence of circumstances within individual courts may have a precipitous effect on the need for increased resources. Such an indication may be reflected in the litigiousness of individual cases or practices unique to the local legal culture.

Traditionally, the time required to terminate cases is one method of ascertaining how the circuit courts are coping with increases in caseload. Table 3 illustrates the average number of days between filing and disposition for all cases terminated over the past four fiscal years. Table 5 provides a breakdown of the number of hearings conducted by case type and jurisdiction, as well as statewide comparative rankings. Workload measures are compared in Table 6 and include: filings per judge; pending cases per judge; dispositions per judge; population per judge; and ratio of attorneys to judges. Detailed population statistics are found in Table 4. All variables are ranked in Table 8 and distinguish between predictive factors and performance factors. Predictive factors generally indicate those elements that may affect the volume of workload in the courts for the foreseeable future, while performance factors tend to illustrate the ability of the courts to address the workload. Comparison of these factors in Table 9 provides further insight into the relative needs of each jurisdiction in Maryland in terms of volume and its ability to cope with workload demands.

The Judiciary is working with the National Center for State Courts to examine a uniform process for determining judicial need in both trial court levels. The methodology measures the volume, as well as the complexity of cases entering the courts and is a more accurate gauge of expenditure of judicial time. The study currently is underway and it is anticipated that the new process will be used in future analyses.

Since the certification process began in January of 1979, 53 circuit court judgeships and 22 District Court judgeships have been created by the General Assembly.

III. GENERAL TRENDS WITHIN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

The circuit courts have noted a steady increase in filing activity over the last five years. There were 268,399 total cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 290,512 case filings, an increase of approximately 8.2 percent. During the five-year period, increases occurred in each functional area — civil, criminal and juvenile — with the greatest statistical increase reported in civil case filings. Since Fiscal Year 1996, civil filings have risen nearly 7 percent, from 157,743 to the current total of 168,330 filings (10,587 additional filings). Juvenile filings followed, increasing approximately 18.6 percent. There were 40,903 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with 48,502 filings during Fiscal Year 2000, representing an increase of nearly 7,600 case filings. During the same period, a 5.6 percent increase was noted in criminal filings, from 69,753 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 73,680 filings.

Throughout the five-year period, family matters, including juvenile, comprised nearly 50 percent of the State's circuit courts' caseload. Despite this high concentration, the circuit courts have made great strides in effectively and expeditiously addressing family matters, including juvenile, over the past several years. The far-reaching, life altering implications of the decisions rendered in the aforementioned case types have forced the court to redirect its resources in many instances. Among the efforts undertaken in recent years, and that continue to be manifested today, are the establishment of separate Family Divisions in the larger jurisdictions and the institution of Family Coordinators in the remaining jurisdictions. Also, the amendments to Rule 9-207, which altered the authority of Masters, has ensured more concentrated judicial attention to the very sensitive nature of family issues. The impact of the Rule on judicial resources can not be determined statistically at this time; however, it is reasonable to anticipate that each circuit will require one to two additional judges to accommodate the increased caseloads.

In addition to family matters that have continued to strain judicial resources, the courts have experienced an increase in complex civil litigation, as well as a rise in pro se litigation. The courts have implemented several management tools to assist, not only with

expeditious dispensation of justice, but with fair and effective service. Differentiated case management is being utilized to track cases by complexity, degree of early judicial intervention and likelihood of trial certainty. This has allowed the courts to make intelligent and more informed decisions regarding case scheduling, resulting in more efficient movement through the judicial process, thus alleviating clogged dockets. Other measures include the expanded use of alternative dispute resolution methods (ADR) and formal legal assistance programs for pro se litigants and victims of domestic violence. While the implementation of the aforementioned programs has improved service to litigants and promoted greater access to our courts, they have strained judicial resources. Judges are presiding over more hearings and scheduling conferences as they attempt to resolve issues earlier in the judicial process.

Judgeships Created Since 1979		
Jurisdiction	Circuit Court	District Court
Anne Arundel	3	2
Baltimore County	6	1
Baltimore City	8	4
Calvert	1	
Carroll	1	
Cecil	1	
Charles	3	1
Frederick	2	1
Harford	2	1
Howard	2	3
Montgomery	7	4
Prince George's	11	4
St. Mary's	2	
Washington	2	
Wicomico	1	1
Worcester	1	
TOTAL	53	22

Note: There were two District Court judgeships authorized during the 1996 Session of the General Assembly, one in Anne Arundel County and one in Baltimore City. Those two judgeships were to be shared with the District Court in Baltimore County.

Jury Trial Prayers										
	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
Baltimore City*	3,140	3,450	4,317	4,293	3,752	3,255	3,841	5,279	4,365	5,669
Anne Arundel	2,383	2,599	1,274	827	746	692	596	479	572	532
Baltimore	4,002	2,952	2,409	2,835	2,356	2,354	2,143	2,134	1,997	1,730
Montgomery	1,810	2,493	2,093	1,464	1,560	1,713	1,223	1,241	1,459	2,014
Prince George's	2,955	3,297	2,757	2,836	2,652	3,628	2,518	3,878	5,430	5,662
Other Counties	10,814	11,471	11,434	11,452	11,883	11,575	11,390	11,370	11,275	11,770
TOTAL	25,104	26,262	24,284	23,707	22,949	23,217	21,711	24,381	25,098	27,377

Based on the number of defendants provided by the Criminal Assignment Office of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Indictment and Information Filings										
	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
Baltimore City	13,351	14,555	13,187	14,136	14,372	14,558	15,118	15,589	16,075	16,217
Anne Arundel County	3,281	4,219	4,132	3,978	3,795	3,508	3,268	3,325	3,829	3,587
Baltimore County	2,910	3,271	3,373	3,291	3,536	4,003	4,140	4,218	4,041	3,858
Montgomery County	1,943	2,573	2,959	2,257	2,357	2,650	2,399	2,250	1,916	2,096
Prince George's County	4,340	5,340	5,242	4,648	4,420	4,580	5,212	4,738	4,333	3,943
All Other Counties	7,363	7,830	7,464	7,152	7,851	7,872	7,727	7,917	7,314	7,591
TOTAL	33,188	37,788	36,357	35,462	36,331	37,171	37,864	38,037	37,508	37,292

Exhibit A-3

Circuit Courts Analysis

CIRCUIT COURTS ANALYSIS

Allegany County

Allegany County is located in the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Maryland. Since the 1990 Census, population in this subdivision has declined approximately 7.5 percent, from 74,946 residents to the projected July 1, 2001 population of 69,300 residents.

While Allegany County's population has continued to decline, the circuit court has experienced increased filing activity over the last five years. Filings rose from 3,230 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 3,647 filings, an increase of nearly 13 percent. During the five-year period, increases occurred in each of the three functional areas, with the greatest statistical increase noted in civil case filings. There were 2,297 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 2,542 filings, an increase 10.7 percent or 245 additional filings. Contributing to the aforementioned increase was a 70.5 percent rise in administrative agency appeals (from 95 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 162 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 21 percent increase in domestic related filings (from 1,307 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,582 during Fiscal Year 2000). Juvenile filings followed, increasing 38 percent, from 316 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 436 filings. Fueling that increase was a 42.5 percent increase in delinquency filings, from 219 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 312 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. During the same period, CINA filings rose 19 percent, from 84 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to 100 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. A 16 percent increase in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court, mitigated by a 8.5 percent decrease in

indictment and information filings contributed the 8.4 percent rise in criminal filings during the last five years. There were 617 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996. That figure compares with the current total of 669 criminal filings.

Allegany County has a complement of two resident judges and one full time master to adjudicate its caseload. During Fiscal Year 2000, the judges and master presided over 2,586 total hearings. Inmate litigation from the Western Correctional Institution is expected to impact Allegany County's caseload in the coming years. The court has managed its increasing caseload effectively, particularly in family matters, with aggressive management initiatives for expeditious scheduling and disposition of cases.

During Fiscal Year 2000, Allegany County reported approximately 1,824 filings and 1,745 dispositions per judge, ranking sixteenth and fifteenth, respectively, statewide. Additionally, Allegany County recorded the ninth longest juvenile disposition time (71 days).

Anne Arundel County

With a projected July 1, 2001 population of 488,500 residents, Anne Arundel County has experienced an influx of more than 61,200 inhabitants since the 1990 Census. Those figures represent an increase of 14.3 percent. Anne Arundel County ranked fifth in population per judge (48,380 residents) during Fiscal Year 2000.

Over the last two years, Anne Arundel County's caseload has remained relatively consistent. There were 21,405 filings recorded during Fiscal Year 1999, compared with the current total of 20,141 filings. Civil cases continued to comprise the greatest percentage of total filings (60.1 percent or 12,095 filings), followed by criminal cases, which

accounted for 23.5 percent of the Fiscal Year 2000 caseload (4,740 filings). Categorically, domestic filings comprised nearly 30 percent of the court's total caseload (5,985 filings). In comparison, approximately 17.8 percent of the filings (3,587 filings) involved indictment and information cases, while 14 percent (2,823 filings) were delinquency matters. The court has implemented several management initiatives to adjudicate its caseload effectively, particularly in light of amendments to Rule 9-207, limiting the role of masters in the circuit courts. The initiatives include establishing more meaningful trial dates, a distinct case management system for family law and civil cases, and additional scheduling conferences to address and settle issues earlier in the judicial process. The additional time requirements associated with the implementation of the aforementioned initiatives have strained existing judicial resources. Effectively maintaining the initiatives and thus, the level of service, will continue to tax those resources.

During Fiscal Year 2000, Anne Arundel County recorded 2,014 filings and 1,795 dispositions per judge. The court also recorded 1,498 hearings per judge and master. Anne Arundel County averaged 263 days on civil case disposition during Fiscal Year 2000. As previously mentioned, the Rule governing changes in the authority of masters will result in additional responsibilities for the court's ten resident judges. That increase will not only impact the court's workload, but also its ability to continue to dispose cases expeditiously without compromising the high level of service to which the citizens have become accustomed.

Baltimore City

Population in Baltimore City has continued to decrease since the 1990 Census. It is projected that population in that region of the State will approximate 609,600 residents by July 1, 2001. That figure represents a decrease of more than 17 percent from the 736,014 residents recorded during the 1990 Census.

In contrast to the declining population, filing activity in Baltimore City has increased steadily over the last five years. There were 69,377 total filings recorded during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of nearly 16 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 59,942 filings. Contributing to the overall increase were increases in each functional area, with the greatest increase, 19.6 percent, reported in juvenile filings. Criminal and civil filings increased 18.3 percent and 12.3 percent, respectively. With respect to categorical distribution, more than 23 percent of the total caseload for Fiscal Year 2000 comprised indictment and information filings. Domestic related cases followed, comprising approximately 16.2 percent of Baltimore City's Fiscal Year 2000 caseload, while 12 percent of the caseload involved delinquency matters. Not only has Baltimore City's caseload increased, but the court has experienced an increase in its workload. During Fiscal Year 2000, there were 59,751 hearings recorded, an increase of nearly 11 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 53,886 hearings. One contributing factor to the increase in hearings has been a rise in TPR petitions, necessitating additional hearings. Also impacting judicial resources is an increased pro se caseload. The litigation, by its very nature, requires additional court time for a number of reasons, notwithstanding the

litigants' lack of knowledge and familiarity with the functionality of the judicial system. The continued increase in criminal case filings has compelled the court to schedule five felony trials per day for each criminal judge. Baltimore City reported nearly 35 percent of the State's criminal caseload for Fiscal Year 2000.

During Fiscal Year 2000, Baltimore City ranked second Statewide in filings per judge (2,313 filings) and third in dispositions per judge (2,139 dispositions). In addition, Baltimore City recorded the second longest disposition time in both civil cases (247 days) and juvenile cases (89 days). In spite of its ever-increasing caseload, Baltimore City has made great strides in managing its criminal case disposition time. During Fiscal Year 2000, this jurisdiction recorded the fastest disposition time for criminal cases (85 days). Baltimore City also is responsible for adjudicating the State's asbestos caseload and has experienced an increase in complex civil litigation.

Baltimore City has thirty resident judges and thirteen masters.

Baltimore County

Baltimore County's projected July 1, 2001 population of 729,000 residents represents a 5.3 percent increase over the 1990 Census total of 692,134 residents, an influx of nearly 37,000 inhabitants. Baltimore County ranked sixth in population per judge during Fiscal Year 2000, with 45,406 residents per judge.

Since Fiscal Year 1996, total filings in Baltimore County have increased approximately 4 percent, from 27,952, to the current total of 29,061 filings. Increases were reported in both civil and juvenile case filings. During the same period, a reduction in the

number of criminal case filings was noted. Juvenile filings increased most significantly during the five-year period, from 4,589 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 5,548 filings during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 20.9 percent. That reported increase can be attributed to a 26.1 percent rise in delinquency filings (from 3,871 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 4,883 during Fiscal Year 2000). Civil case filings followed, increasing 6.8 percent, from 15,574 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 16,638 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. More than 53 percent of Baltimore County's civil caseload comprised domestic related cases. There were 8,859 domestic related case filings reported during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 8.2 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 8,185 filings. The only decrease (11.7 percent) occurred in criminal filings, from 7,789 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 6,875 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. A rather significant decrease (26.5 percent) in requests for jury trials from the District Court contributed to the aforementioned decrease. There were 2,354 jury trial prayers reported during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with 1,730 filings during Fiscal Year 2000.

During Fiscal Year 2000, Baltimore County filed 1,816 cases and disposed 1,526 cases per judge. Additionally, there were 19,096 hearings conducted. With respect to case disposition time, Baltimore County averaged 75 days in juvenile case disposition, 209 days in civil case disposition and 114 days in criminal case disposition. There are sixteen judges and five masters assigned to adjudicate Baltimore County's caseload.

Calvert County

Calvert County continues to be the fastest growing subdivision in the State. It is projected that its population will approximate 78,400 residents by July 1, 2001. That figure represents an increase of nearly 53 percent or more than 27,000 residents since the 1990 Census. During Fiscal Year 2000, Calvert County recorded 38,050 residents per judge.

Over the last five years, total filings have increased approximately 11.5 percent, from 4,450 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 4,960 filings. Fueling the overall increase was a 30 percent rise in civil filings, from 2,819 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,666 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. The increase in civil case filings can be attributed to a 30.7 percent rise in domestic related filings over the five-year period. There were 2,244 domestic related cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the current total of 2,933 filings. During the same period, juvenile filings decreased 5.1 percent, while criminal filings decreased 34 percent. A 18.3 percent decrease in delinquency filings (from 591 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 483 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the decrease reported in juvenile filings, while a 42.6 percent reduction in indictment and information filings (from 474 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 272 during Fiscal Year 2000) fueled the decrease in criminal filings.

Calvert County recorded 5,767 total hearings during Fiscal Year 2000. That figure equates to 1,922 hearings conducted per judge and master. Along with the increase in civil filings over the last five years, an increase was noted in the number of civil hearings conducted during the same period. There were 2,392 civil hearings conducted during

Fiscal Year 1996, compared with 2,697 during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 12.8 percent. Likewise, juvenile hearings increased 28.4 percent (from 1,403 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,801 filings during Fiscal Year 2000). The increase in juvenile hearings occurred even though an overall decrease was noted in juvenile case filings.

Calvert County ranked first in both filings (2,480 filings) and dispositions per judge (2,448 dispositions) during Fiscal Year 2000. With respect to case disposition, the court expended an average of 225 days on civil case disposition, 134 days on criminal case disposition, and 69 days on juvenile case disposition. With its increasing workload, the court's two judges and one master will be challenged to find ways to effectively manage its already strained judicial resources.

Caroline County

Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Caroline County has experienced an influx of more than 3,000 residents since the 1990 Census. It is projected that this subdivision's population will approximate 30,100 by July 1, 2001, an increase of 11.3 percent over the 27,035 residents recorded during the 1990 Census.

After increasing for two years, total filings in Caroline County decreased approximately 7.8 percent, from 1,700 during Fiscal Year 1999, to the current total of 1,567 filings. The reported decrease can be attributed to decreases in civil and juvenile case filings. The only increase, however slight, occurred in criminal case filings. The greatest decrease was reported in civil filings, from 1,146 during Fiscal Year 1999, to 1,017 during Fiscal Year 2000. A 13.2 percent decrease in domestic related filings (from 951 filings

during Fiscal Year 1999, to 825 filings during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the reported decrease in overall civil filings. Juvenile filings decreased 3.8 percent, from 340 during Fiscal Year 1999, to 327 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. During the same period, a 4.2 percent rise in criminal filings was reported, from 214 filings during Fiscal Year 1999, to the current total of 223 filings.

Caroline County's one judge is assisted by a part time master. With 2,689 hearings conducted, Caroline County ranked first in the number of hearings per judge and master during Fiscal Year 2000 (2,241 hearings). Over the last five years, the number of hearings conducted increased nearly 66 percent, from the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 1,622 hearings.

Carroll County

Carroll County continues to experience an explosion in population. Since the 1990 Census, population has increased nearly 29 percent or 35,628 additional inhabitants. During Fiscal Year 2000, Carroll County ranked first in population per judge (51,900 residents).

Filing activity in Carroll County has fluctuated over the last five years with no discernible trend. Since Fiscal Year 1996, filings have decreased approximately 2.4 percent, from 5,937 to the current total of 5,797 filings. The overall decrease can be attributed to decreases in both civil and criminal case filings. The greatest decrease occurred in criminal filings, from 1,953 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,714 filings during Fiscal Year 2000, a 12.2 percent decrease. A 10.8 percent rise in indictment and information filings (from 655 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 726 during Fiscal Year 2000),

mitigated by a 24.6 percent reduction in jury trial prayers (from 1,078 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 813 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the reported decrease in criminal filings. Civil case filings decreased 9.4 percent, from 3,320 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,008 during Fiscal Year 2000. The decrease in civil filings was impacted by an 11.5 percent reduction in domestic related filings (from 2,138 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,893 during Fiscal Year 2000). The only functional area in which an increase occurred was in juvenile filings. There were 1,075 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 61.9 percent over the 664 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996. Categorically, delinquency filings increased 57.7 percent (from 532 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 839 during Fiscal Year 2000), while CINA filings increased 120.5 percent (from 83 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 183 during Fiscal Year 2000). Since Fiscal Year 1996, approximately 27.7 percent more hearings have been conducted, from 5,642, to the current total of 7,206 hearings. Carroll County's three judges are assisted by one full time and one part time master. Together, they presided over approximately 7,206 total hearings.

More than 1,930 cases were filed per judge, while 1,934 cases were disposed during Fiscal Year 2000. Additionally, Carroll County recorded the fourth longest disposition time for both civil cases (241 days) and juvenile cases (76 days) and fifth longest criminal case disposition time (144 days).

Cecil County

Cecil County is one of the fastest growing subdivisions on the Eastern Shore. It is projected that population in that area of the State will approximate 87,200 residents by July

1, 2001. That figure represents an increase of 22.2 percent over the 1990 Census total of 71,347 residents, an influx of nearly 16,000 residents.

Over the last five years, total filings increased approximately 31.3 percent, from 4,982 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 6,540 filings. That rather significant increase can be attributed to a 54.2 percent rise in civil case filings, from 2,767 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 4,267 during Fiscal Year 2000. An increase of 56.1 percent in domestic related filings, (from 2,065 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,224 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the reported increase. During the same period, juvenile filings rose 6.5 percent, while criminal filings increased less than one percent. There were 771 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, compared with 724 during Fiscal Year 1996. Criminal filings rose from 1,491 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,502 during Fiscal Year 2000.

The three judges assigned to Cecil County presided over 5,444 hearings during Fiscal Year 2000, approximately 1,815 hearings each. Cecil County ranked fifth in filings per judge (2,180 filings). During the same period, Cecil County reportedly expended an average of 185 days on criminal case disposition and 73 days on juvenile case disposition.

Charles County

This Southern Maryland subdivision continues to participate in the population growth experienced by the other subdivisions in that region of the State. The projected July 1, 2001 population of 125, 800 represents an increase of 24.4 percent since the 1990 Census.

Along with its increasing population, Charles County has recorded a steady rise in filing activity. Over the last five years, total filings have increased approximately 20.7 percent, from 6,902 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 8,328 filings. The greatest statistical increase occurred in civil case filings. There was a 24.8 percent increase reported in civil filings over the last five years, from 4,584 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 5,719 filings (1,135 additional filings). That increase can be attributed to a 22.1 percent rise in domestic related filings, from 3,584 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 4,380 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. Juvenile filings followed, increasing 33.8 percent or 276 additional filings. There were 816 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with 1,092 during Fiscal Year 2000. A 68 percent increase in CINA filings (from 97 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 161 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 28.2 percent increase in delinquency filings (from 710 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 910 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the reported increase. During the five-year period, criminal filing activity remained relatively consistent (from 1,502 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,517 during Fiscal Year 2000).

There are four judges and two masters assigned to adjudicate Charles County's growing caseload. During Fiscal Year 2000, the judges and masters conducted 10,001 total hearings, approximately 1,832 hearings each. Over the last five years, the number of hearings conducted increased 21.6 percent, from 9,035 during Fiscal Year 1996.

Charles County filed 2,082 cases, while disposing 1,978 cases per judge during Fiscal Year 2000. Additionally, Charles County expended 143 days on criminal case

disposition and 72 days on juvenile case disposition, ranking sixth and seventh, respectively.

Dorchester County

With a projected July 1, 2001 population of 29,500 residents, Dorchester County continues to be the only Eastern Shore subdivision with a declining population. Since the 1990 Census, total population has decreased approximately 2.4 percent.

While population has decreased, total filings have increased approximately 14 percent over the last five years, from 1,928 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 2,197 filings. Contributing to the reported increase was a 90.3 percent rise in juvenile filings. There were 175 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 333 filings. The increase in juvenile filings can be attributed to increases in both delinquency (69.4 percent) and CINA (98.5 percent) filings. Delinquency filings rose from 108 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 183 during Fiscal Year 2000, while CINA filings increased from 67 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 133 filings. During the same period, civil filings increased 8.1 percent (from 1,121 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,212 during Fiscal Year 2000), while a 3.2 percent increase was reported in criminal filings (from 632 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 652 during Fiscal Year 2000). Domestic related filings rose 7.1 percent during the same period, while indictment and information filings increased 24.6 percent. Dorchester County reported an increase of 4.4 percent in hearings over the last five years, from 2,401 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,507 during Fiscal Year 2000.

Dorchester County's one resident judge currently receives the assistance of one part time master. One concern prevalent within any one-judge jurisdiction is the impact of vacations, illnesses, and other factors beyond the court's control, on access to justice. The court has worked tirelessly to ensure that access is not adversely compromised. During Fiscal Year 2000, Dorchester County reported 2,197 filings per judge and 2,161 dispositions per judge, ranking fourth and second, respectively, Statewide. Dorchester County averaged 215 days on civil case disposition and 142 days on criminal case disposition.

Frederick County

The fastest growing area in Western Maryland, Frederick County's projected July 1, 2001 population of 198,100 residents represents an influx of nearly 48,000 residents or 31.9 percent since the 1990 Census. Frederick County ranked fourth in population per judge (48,600 residents) during Fiscal Year 2000.

An escalation in juvenile filings has contributed to a 44.4 percent increase in total filings in Frederick County over the last five years. There were 5,749 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the current total of 8,302 filings. During that same period, juvenile filings increased 248.7 percent, from 866 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,020 during Fiscal Year 2000. Fueling that significant rise was a 255.6 percent increase in delinquency filings, from 664 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,361 during Fiscal Year 2000. Over the past several years, Frederick County has experienced an explosion in delinquent activity. Also increasing during the five-year period were CINA filings, from 140 during

Fiscal Year 1996 to the current total of 533 filings, an increase of 280.7 percent. Though not as significant, criminal filings rose 17.1 percent (from 1,522 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,782 during Fiscal Year 2000), while civil filings increased 4.1 percent, from 3,361 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,500 during Fiscal Year 2000. Categorical increases occurred in jury trial requests emanating from the District Court (25 percent) and general civil filings (103.4 percent).

Not surprisingly, along with Frederick County's increased caseload has been an increase in the number of hearings conducted. Since Fiscal Year 1996, hearings have increased more than 39 percent, from 4,607 to the current total of 6,413 hearings. The most significant increase has occurred in juvenile hearings (74.6 percent), from 2,104 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,673 during Fiscal Year 2000.

There are four judges and one part time master assigned to adjudicate Frederick County's ever-increasing caseload. During Fiscal Year 2000, Frederick County ranked ninth in filings per judge (2,076 filings). Frederick County expended an average of 152 days on criminal case disposition (fourth statewide) and 214 days on civil case disposition (eleventh statewide).

Garrett County

Maryland's western most subdivision, Garrett County, is home to approximately 29,400 residents. Since the 1990 Census, population has increased 4.5 percent.

Over the last five years, total filings have decreased approximately 3.5 percent, from 1,168 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 1,127 filings. Contributing to the

reported decrease was a 24.9 percent reduction in criminal filings, coupled with a 14.3 percent decrease in civil case filings. There were 145 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, compared with the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 193 filings. A 50 percent decrease in jury trial prayers, from 84 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 42 during Fiscal Year 2000, contributed to the reported decrease in criminal filings. Likewise, the decrease in civil filings can be attributed to a 21.6 percent decrease in domestic related filings (from 643 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 504 during Fiscal Year 2000). Overall, civil filings decreased from 842 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 722 during Fiscal Year 2000. The only functional area in which an increase occurred during the five-year period was in juvenile filings. There were 260 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 95.5 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 133 filings. Contributing to the reported increase was a 60.8 percent rise in delinquency filings (from 74 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 119 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 119 percent rise in CINA filings (from 58 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 127 during Fiscal Year 2000).

Garrett County has one judge and one master who collectively presided over 2,586 hearings during Fiscal Year 2000. In comparison, 977 hearings were conducted during Fiscal Year 1996. Those figures represent an increase of more than 164 percent over the last five years.

Harford County

Harford County has experienced an influx of nearly 43,000 inhabitants since the April 1990 Census, from 182,132 to the projected July 1, 2001 population of 224,900

residents. During Fiscal Year 2000, Harford County recorded approximately 44,320 residents per judge.

Over the last five years, filing activity in Harford County has increased more than 26 percent, from 6,943 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 8,768 filings. Increases were noted in each functional area, with the greatest increase occurring in civil case filings. There were 5,603 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 40.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 3,991 filings. That increase can be attributed to a 44.8 percent rise in domestic related filings, from 2,706 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 3,917 filings. Juvenile filings followed, increasing 19.9 percent, from 851 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,020 during Fiscal Year 2000. An increase of 19.2 percent in delinquency filings (from 588 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 701 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 13.8 percent rise in CINA filings (from 261 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 297 during Fiscal Year 2000), contributed to the reported increase. The increase in criminal filings (2.1 percent) was not as significant, from 2,101 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,145 during Fiscal Year 2000. Contributing to the slight increase in criminal filing activity over the last five years was a 12.8 percent increase in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court, mitigated by a 15.9 percent reduction in indictment and information filings.

Harford County has a complement of five resident judges who are assisted by one full time and one part time master. During Fiscal Year 2000, they collectively presided over 5,546 hearings. Harford County averaged 244 days on civil case disposition and 77 days

on juvenile case disposition, ranking third Statewide in both categories. Additionally, Harford County expended an average of 132 days on criminal case disposition.

Howard County

Nearly 68,000 additional residents have inhabited Howard County since the 1990 Census, an increase of 36.2 percent. It is projected that by July 1, 2001, total population in Howard County will approximate 255,200 residents. During Fiscal Year 2000, Howard County ranked third in population per judge (49,900 residents).

Over the last five years, Howard County has experienced a steady decline in filing activity, from 8,547 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 7,781 filings, a 9 percent decrease. Both juvenile and criminal filings decreased over the five-year period, while an increase was reported in civil case filings. There were 971 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, a decrease of 24.4 percent from the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 1,285 filings. Contributing to that reported decrease was a 27.6 percent decrease in delinquency filings, from 1,118 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 809 filings. While delinquency filings have decreased over the last five years, they continue to comprise more than 83 percent of Howard County's juvenile caseload. During the same period, CINA filings rose 7.5 percent. Criminal filings decreased 21.1 percent during the last five years, from 3,070 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,421 during Fiscal Year 2000. Decreases in indictment and information filings (27.9 percent) and jury trial prayers (20.2 percent) contributed to the reported decrease in total criminal cases. The only area in which an increase was noted was in civil filings. There were 4,192 civil cases filed during

Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the current total of 4,389 filings, an increase of nearly 5 percent. During the five-year period, appeals from administrative agencies increased 12.3 percent, while general civil filings rose 43.8 percent.

Howard County has five judges and three masters assigned to adjudicate its caseload. During Fiscal Year 2000, Howard County averaged 241 days for civil case disposition (fifth longest statewide), 138 days for criminal case disposition (ninth longest statewide) and 69 days for juvenile case disposition (eleventh longest statewide).

Kent County

Kent County is Maryland's least populated subdivision with a July 1, 2001 projected population of 19,300 residents, representing an increase of approximately 8.2 percent since the 1990 Census.

Filing activity in Kent County has decreased approximately 4 percent over the last five years. There were 1,432 cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 1,375 filings. During the five-year period, decreases were noted in both juvenile and civil filings. Civil filings decreased 6.4 percent, from 1,157 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,083 during Fiscal Year 2000. The reported decrease can be attributed to a 12.3 percent reduction in domestic related filings, from 1,013 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 888 filings. Juvenile filings followed, decreasing slightly (1.1 percent), from 87 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 81 filings. The only increase was noted in criminal case filings. There were 188 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 211 filings, an

increase of more than 12 percent. The increase in criminal filings can be attributed to a 53 percent rise in indictment and information filings, from 66 during Fiscal Year 1996 to 101 during Fiscal Year 2000. During the same period, requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court decreased 11.8 percent, from 102 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 90 filings during Fiscal Year 2000.

Kent County has one judge who receives assistance from one part time master. During Fiscal Year 2000, they presided over 1,391 hearings. An average of 153 days was expended on criminal case disposition (third longest statewide) and 71 days on juvenile case disposition (eighth longest statewide) during Fiscal Year 2000.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County is the most populated jurisdiction in the State with a July 1, 2001 projected population of 870,000 residents. That figure represents an influx of nearly 113,000 inhabitants since the 1990 Census. During Fiscal Year 2000, Montgomery County ranked second in population per judge (50,659 residents).

Total filings have increased approximately 6.6 percent over the last five years, from 34,919 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 37,226 filings. During the same period, increases were reported in both civil and juvenile filings. The greatest increase, 9.2 percent, occurred in civil filings, from 22,711 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 24,802 filings. The reported increase can be attributed to an increase in general civil filings (183.4 percent), from 1,794 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 5,084 during Fiscal Year 2000, coupled with a 8 percent rise in domestic related filings (from 10,589

during Fiscal Year 1996, to 11,431 during Fiscal Year 2000). Juvenile filings increased 9.6 percent during the five-year period, from 6,915 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 7,576 filings. Increases were noted in both delinquency filings (8.4 percent) and CINA filings (6.6 percent). The only decrease occurred in criminal case filings, from 5,293 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 4,848 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. A 17.6 percent rise in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court, mitigated by a 20.9 percent reduction in indictment and information filings contributed to the reported decrease in criminal filings.

Montgomery County's complement of seventeen judges and four masters presided over 41,890 hearings during Fiscal Year 2000. That equates to 1,995 hearings per judge and master. Montgomery County ranked fourth in filings per judge (2,190 filings) and second in dispositions per judge (2,214 dispositions) during Fiscal Year 2000. Additionally, Montgomery County reported the shortest disposition time for civil cases (148 days) and the second shortest time for criminal case disposition (86 days).

The amendments to Rule 9-207, altering the authority of masters in the circuit courts, coupled with the influx of cases resulting from the impending legislation to transfer jurisdiction of juvenile matters from the District Court to the Circuit Court in Montgomery County will have a significant impact on Montgomery County's current judicial resources. Additional judicial officers will be needed to maintain the level of service currently provided to the citizens of this growing subdivision.

Prince George's County

Prince George's County's population is expected to approximate 793,600 residents by July 1, 2001, representing an influx of more than 64,000 residents since the 1990 Census. There were approximately 34,248 residents per judge during Fiscal Year 2000.

Over the last five years, total filings reported by Prince George's County have increased approximately 5.2 percent, from 44,024 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 46,302 during Fiscal Year 2000. Contributing to the reported increase was a 17 percent rise in criminal case filings, from 8,851 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 10,353 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. An increase of more than 56 percent in jury trial requests contributed to the reported increase. There were 3,628 requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the current total of 5,662 filings. Civil filings rose 2.5 percent during the same period, while a slight increase of less than one percent was noted in juvenile filings. There were 30,020 civil filings reported, compared with 29,293 filings during Fiscal Year 1996. The civil caseload continued to be inundated with family matters, 18,732 filings or 62.4 percent of the total civil cases filed. Likewise, nearly 69 percent (4,069 filings) of the juvenile caseload during Fiscal Year 2000 comprised delinquency cases.

Prince George's County's twenty-three judges and six masters presided over 47,207 hearings during the fiscal year. Approximately 2,013 filings were recorded per judge, while 1,834 dispositions were recorded during Fiscal Year 2000. Prince George's County recorded the sixth longest civil case disposition time (238 days).

Queen Anne's County

Queen Anne's County is one of the fastest growing subdivisions on the Maryland's Eastern Shore. Its July 1, 2001 projected population of 42,600 residents represents an increase of 25.5 percent over the 1990 Census. Queen Anne's County ranked eighth statewide in population per judge (41,600 residents) during Fiscal Year 2000.

Over the last five years, Queen Anne's County has reported fluctuating filing activity with a net increase of less than one percent, from 1,686 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 1,692 filings. Nearly 70 percent of Queen Anne's County's caseload comprised civil cases (1,177 filings). Included in that figure are 713 domestic related filings. Approximately 60.6 percent of all civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000 involved family matters. Likewise, more than 69 percent of all juvenile filings were delinquency matters. There were 341 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, of which 237 were delinquency cases. Both civil and juvenile filings increased during the five-year period, 2.4 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively. The only decrease during the five-year period occurred in criminal case filings. There were 213 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the current total of 174 filings, a decrease of 18.3 percent. That decrease can be attributed to a 29.3 percent decrease in indictment and information filings, from 123 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 87 filings.

Queen Anne's County's single jurist presided over 1,434 hearings during Fiscal Year 2000.

St. Mary's County

St. Mary's County is located on the southern most tip of Maryland. It's July 1, 2001 population is projected to reach 92,100 residents, representing represents an increase of 21.2 percent or more than 16,000 residents since the 1990 Census.

Since Fiscal Year 1996, filing activity in St. Mary's County has declined nearly 8 percent, from 4,705 filings to the current total of 4,341 filings. Contributing to the reported decrease were decreases in both civil and criminal filings. The only functional area in which an increase occurred was in juvenile cases. Criminal case filings decreased most significantly, from 843 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 553 filings. That decrease can be attributed to a 61.2 percent decrease in jury trial requests from the District Court (from 567 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 220 during Fiscal Year 2000). During the same period, indictment and information filings increased 26.2 percent, from 252 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 318 filings. Also decreasing during the five-year period were civil case filings, from 3,337 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,173 during Fiscal Year 2000, a decrease of 4.9 percent. Domestic related filings continued to comprise the greatest percentage of the civil caseload, 77.9 percent or 2,472 filings. The only increase occurred in juvenile filings, from 525 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 615 during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 17.1 percent. A 24.1 percent rise in delinquency filings (from 382 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 474 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the reported increase in total juvenile filings during the five-year period.

During Fiscal Year 2000, St. Mary's County conducted 4,874 hearings. There are three judges and one part time master assigned to adjudicate St. Mary's County's caseload.

Somerset County

Somerset County is located in the First Judicial Circuit of Maryland. Its projected July 1, 2001 population of 24,300 residents represents an increase of 3.7 percent since the 1990 Census.

During the last five years, total filings remained relatively consistent, decreasing approximately one percent, from 2,175 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,154 during Fiscal Year 2000. In contrast to the slight decrease in total filings, juvenile filings increased rather significantly during the same period. There were 199 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the current total of 365 filings, an increase of approximately 83.4 percent. A 172.1 percent increase in CINA filings (from 61 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 166 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 40.3 percent rise in delinquency filings (from 134 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 188 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the reported increase. During the same period, criminal filings decreased 19.3 percent, while a 5.8 percent decrease was noted in civil case filings. There were 432 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, compared with 535 filings during Fiscal Year 1996. A 22.1 percent decrease in requests for jury trials from the District Court (from 335 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 261 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the decrease. Likewise, civil filings decreased from 1,441 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 1,357 filings.

Domestic related filings decreased 14 percent over the five-year period (from 1,216 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,046 during Fiscal Year 2000). Inmate litigation from the Eastern Correctional Institution is expected to impact Somerset County's caseload in the coming years.

Somerset County has one judge and one part time master. During Fiscal Year 2000, they collectively presided over 1,836 total hearings or 1,311 each. Somerset County ranked sixth Statewide in filings per judge (2,154 filings) and fifth in dispositions per judge (2,116 dispositions).

Talbot County

Talbot County has a July 1, 2001 projected population of 34,000 residents. That figure represents an increase of 11.3 percent or 3,451 residents over the 1990 Census.

Over the last five years, Talbot County has experienced a steady rise in total filings, from 1,622 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 2,039 filings, an increase of 25.7 percent. Increases were noted in each functional area, with the greatest increase reported in juvenile filings. There were 508 juvenile cases filed, an increase of 176.1 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 184 filings. Fueling that increase was a rather significant rise in delinquency filings, from 135 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 417 filings. In addition, CINA filings increased 60.9 percent (from 46 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 74 during Fiscal Year 2000). During the same period, Talbot County recorded a 20 percent increase in criminal filings, from 330 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 396 filings. Contributing to the reported increase was a 19.1 percent rise in indictment

and information filings (from 188 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 224 during Fiscal Year 2000). Civil filings increased 2.4 percent during the five-year period, from 1,108 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,135 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. Domestic related filings continued to comprise a great percentage of the civil caseload (72.6 percent).

Talbot County's one judge is assisted by one part time master. During Fiscal Year 2000, they presided over a combined 1,937 hearings. That figure represents a 13.5 percent increase over the 1,707 hearings conducted during Fiscal Year 1996. Talbot County filed 2,039 cases and disposed 1,927 cases per judge during Fiscal Year 2000. An average of 138 days was expended on criminal case disposition, 215 days on civil case disposition and 26 days on juvenile case disposition during the year.

Washington County

Washington County is expected to be home to 128,000 residents by July 1, 2001, an increase of 5.4 percent over the 1990 Census. During Fiscal Year 2000, Washington County recorded approximately 31,950 residents per judge.

Since Fiscal Year 1996, Washington County has recorded an increase of nearly 23 percent in total filings, from 6,865 to the current total of 8,436 filings. Increases occurred in each functional area. There were 4,986 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 19.2 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 4,184 filings. Contributing to the reported increase was a 21.5 percent rise in domestic related filings, from 3,182 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 3,867 during Fiscal Year 2000. A 40.7 percent increase was reported in juvenile case filings, from 791 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 1,113

filings. Increases were noted in both CINA (72.2 percent) and delinquency (5.6 percent) filings during the five-year period. There were 363 CINA cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with 625 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. Delinquency filings rose from 408 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 431 filings. Also increasing over the five-year period were criminal case filings, from 1,890 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,337 during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of approximately 23.7 percent. That reported increase can be attributed to a 15.5 percent rise in indictment and information filings (from 639 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 738 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 31.1 percent increase in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court (from 1,112 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,458 during Fiscal Year 2000). Impacting the criminal caseload in Washington County has been an escalation in cases arising from the violation of CDS offenses. Washington County has been identified as a major distribution point for illegal drug activity.

The number of hearings conducted also increased during the five-year period, from 5,568 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 6,319 hearings. Washington County ranked seventh in filings per judge (2,109 filings) and sixth in dispositions per judges (2,044 dispositions) during Fiscal Year 2000. Averaging 188 days on civil case disposition, 123 days on criminal case disposition and 60 days on juvenile case disposition, Washington County has effectively managed its ever-increasing caseload.

There are four judges and one master assigned to adjudicate Washington County's caseload.

Wicomico County

Located in the First Judicial Circuit of Maryland, Wicomico County is expected to be home to 80,100 residents by July 1, 2001. That figure represents a 7.7 percent increase over the 1990 Census.

Filing activity in Wicomico County has increased approximately 22.2 percent over the last five years, from 4,532 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 5,537 filings during Fiscal Year 2000. During the five-year period, juvenile filings rose 53.3 percent, from 353 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 541 filings. A 47.9 percent rise in delinquency filings (from 265 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 392 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 62.8 percent rise in CINA filings (from 86 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 140 during Fiscal Year 2000) contributed to the reported increase. Criminal filing activity rose 34 percent over the same period. There were 1,808 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, compared with the Fiscal Year 2,423 filings. Contributing to the reported increase was a 44.5 percent rise in jury trial prayers (from 971 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,403 during Fiscal Year 2000), coupled with a 19.9 percent rise in indictment and information filings (from 693 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 831 during Fiscal Year 2000).

Wicomico County has three judges and one part time master. During Fiscal Year 2000, they conducted 5,262 hearings, a 124.6 percent increase over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 4,224 hearings. With respect to case disposition, Wicomico County expended an average of 229 days on civil case disposition, 89 days on criminal case disposition and 55 days on juvenile case disposition.

Worcester County

Worcester County continues to be the fastest growing subdivision on the Eastern Shore. Its projected July 1, 2001 population is 45,600, an increase of more than 10,500 residents over the 1990 Census.

Over the last five years, total filings in Worcester County have increased approximately 13.3 percent, from 3,369 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current total of 3,817 filings. The reported increase can be attributed to increases in both civil and criminal filings. The greatest increase occurred in civil case filings, from 1,856 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,252 during Fiscal Year 2000, an increase of 21.3 percent. Fueling the reported increase was a 91.8 percent rise in general civil filings (from 476 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 913 during Fiscal Year 2000). Domestic related filings comprised more than 48 percent of the civil caseload during Fiscal Year 2000. Criminal filings followed, increasing 6.8 percent, from 1,197 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,278 during Fiscal Year 2000. Jury trial requests emanating from the District Court rose 12.2 percent (from 787 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 883 during Fiscal Year 2000), contributing to the reported increase in criminal filings. The only decrease was reported in juvenile filings (9.2 percent), from 316 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 2000 total of 287 filings. Delinquency filings decreased 7.9 percent, while CINA filings decreased nearly 40 percent over the last five years.

An increase of approximately 51.5 percent was reported in the number of hearings conducted since Fiscal Year 1996, from 1,894 to the current total of 2,870 hearings.

Worcester County filed 1,909 cases per judge and disposed 1,908 cases during the fiscal year. The two judges assigned to adjudicate Worcester County's caseload are assisted by one part time master.

EXHIBIT A-4

STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORTING
NEED FOR ADDITIONAL
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIPS

TABLE 1

STATEWIDE CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS BY CASE TYPE

FISCAL YEARS 1989 THROUGH 2000

Case Type	FY 89 Filings (% of Change)	FY 90 Filings (% of Change)	FY 91 Filings (% of Change)	FY 92 Filings (% of Change)	FY 93 Filings (% of Change)	FY 94 Filings (% of Change)	FY 95 Filings (% of Change)	FY 96 Filings (% of Change)	FY 97 Filings (% of Change)	FY 98 Filings (% of Change)	FY 99 Filings (% of Change)	FY 00 Filings (% of Change)
Civil	116,009 2.99%	128,893 11.11%	137,077 6.35%	149,229 8.87%	158,185 6.00%	157,005 -0.75%	147,784 -5.87%	157,743 6.74%	157,899 0.10%	160,174 1.44%	167,265 4.43%	168,330 0.64%
Criminal	61,330 5.88%	60,428 -1.47%	69,451 14.93%	74,062 6.64%	69,836 -5.71%	68,927 -1.30%	68,672 -0.37%	69,753 1.57%	69,121 -0.91%	71,770 3.83%	72,123 0.49%	73,680 2.16%
Juvenile*	36,336 2.50%	39,665 9.16%	36,690 -7.50%	38,372 4.58%	42,744 11.39%	44,690 4.55%	45,866 2.63%	40,903 -10.82%	43,582 6.55%	45,260 3.85%	48,057 6.18%	48,502 0.93%
Total	213,765 3.76%	228,986 7.12%	243,218 6.22%	261,663 7.58%	270,765 3.48%	270,622 -0.05%	262,322 -3.07%	268,399 2.32%	270,602 0.82%	277,204 2.44%	287,445 3.69%	290,512 1.07%

*Includes juvenile causes in Montgomery County.

TABLE 2

**PROJECTIONS OF CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS FOR
EACH JURISDICTION IN MARYLAND THROUGH 2002**

EACH JURISDICTION IN MARYLAND THROUGH 2002										Projected ^a	
Circuit/Jurisdiction	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
<u>First Circuit</u>	10,882	11,296	11,096	11,079	12,004	12,515	13,312	12,942	13,705	13,934	14,303
Dorchester	2,218	2,068	2,044	1,901	1,928	1,881	2,396	2,072	2,197	2,129	2,140
Somerset	1,784	2,046	2,026	2,051	2,175	2,314	2,248	2,207	2,154	2,334	2,379
Wicomico	3,854	3,986	3,936	3,924	4,532	4,935	4,778	4,891	5,537	5,498	5,700
Worcester	3,026	3,196	3,090	3,203	3,369	3,385	3,890	3,772	3,817	3,973	4,084
<u>Second Circuit</u>	10,442	10,013	10,041	10,750	11,400	11,331	11,750	11,930	13,213	12,080	12,272
Caroline	1,325	1,440	1,302	1,541	1,678	1,362	1,692	1,700	1,567	1,708	1,747
Cecil	4,633	4,413	4,328	4,718	4,982	4,913	4,748	5,008	6,540	5,056	5,132
Kent	1,437	1,171	1,392	1,324	1,432	1,548	1,463	1,391	1,375	1,457	1,470
Queen Anne's	1,342	1,388	1,351	1,357	1,686	1,719	1,918	1,858	1,692	1,820	1,835
Talbot	1,705	1,601	1,668	1,810	1,622	1,789	1,929	1,973	2,039	2,039	2,088
<u>Third Circuit</u>	33,492	32,815	33,537	34,110	34,895	35,491	35,632	35,943	37,829	37,552	38,121
Baltimore	25,736	25,455	26,500	26,810	27,952	27,800	28,055	28,479	29,061	29,522	29,964
Harford	7,756	7,360	7,037	7,300	6,943	7,691	7,577	7,464	8,768	8,030	8,157
<u>Fourth Circuit</u>	9,350	9,099	10,544	10,206	11,263	11,717	13,396	13,190	13,210	14,241	14,824
Allegany	2,576	2,795	3,224	2,680	3,230	3,452	3,826	3,440	3,647	3,891	4,027
Garrett	1,131	1,099	1,150	1,152	1,168	1,101	1,217	1,103	1,127	1,145	1,147
Washington	5,643	5,205	6,170	6,374	6,865	7,164	8,353	8,647	8,436	9,205	9,650
<u>Fifth Circuit</u>	40,074	39,866	39,671	38,276	38,146	35,092	34,440	34,734	33,719	33,198	32,545
Anne Arundel	26,798	26,250	26,362	24,053	23,662	21,185	20,274	21,405	20,141	19,287	18,605
Carroll	5,581	6,236	6,296	6,143	5,937	5,567	5,896	5,350	5,797	5,603	5,550
Howard	7,695	7,380	7,013	8,080	8,547	8,340	8,270	7,979	7,781	8,308	8,390
<u>Sixth Circuit</u>	43,971	48,564	46,242	39,127	40,668	42,119	42,375	46,663	45,528	42,678	42,478
Frederick	5,289	5,155	5,219	5,356	5,749	6,371	6,828	7,727	8,302	7,334	7,604
Montgomery ^b	38,682	43,409	41,023	33,771	34,919	35,748	35,547	38,936	37,226	35,344	34,874
<u>Seventh Circuit</u>	52,777	51,999	55,213	59,298	60,081	61,192	61,651	62,067	63,931	64,806	65,849
Calvert	2,904	2,807	2,801	3,752	4,450	4,598	4,686	4,477	4,960	4,904	4,994
Charles	5,539	5,456	5,712	6,785	6,902	7,340	7,644	8,088	8,328	8,672	9,003
Prince George's	40,082	39,748	42,721	44,664	44,024	44,161	44,239	44,946	46,302	46,337	46,871
St. Mary's	4,252	3,988	3,979	4,097	4,705	5,093	5,082	4,556	4,341	4,893	4,981
<u>Eighth Circuit</u>	60,675	67,113	64,278	59,476	59,942	61,145	64,648	69,976	69,377	67,887	68,651
Baltimore City	60,675	67,113	64,278	59,476	59,942	61,145	64,648	69,976	69,377	67,887	68,651
STATEWIDE	261,663	270,765	270,622	262,322	268,399	270,602	277,204	287,445	290,512	286,376	289,043

^aFor Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002, projections are based on a linear regression method of forecasting utilizing data from Fiscal Year 1992 through Fiscal Year 2000. In some instances, data may be deleted because it may skew projections.

^bIncludes juvenile cases heard in Montgomery County.

TABLE 3

**FILING TO DISPOSITION OF CASES TERMINATED
IN FISCAL 1997, 1998, 1999 AND 2000**

	All Criminal Cases				Excluding Cases Over 360 Days*			
	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
First Circuit								
Dorchester	139	145	173	191	125	131	161	142
Somerset	114	99	116	112	98	93	108	104
Wicomico	106	113	113	94	101	105	106	89
Worcester	81	97	117	107	80	95	108	102
Second Circuit								
Caroline	161	167	166	177	157	154	157	159
Cecil	210	204	228	232	179	180	184	185
Kent	139	459	177	159	139	154	141	153
Queen Anne's	742	101	110	128	108	101	105	106
Talbot	120	120	133	146	118	115	130	138
Third Circuit								
Baltimore	106	117	125	137	94	100	107	114
Harford	219	191	198	258	131	126	134	132
Fourth Circuit								
Allegany	204	180	146	127	167	162	136	120
Garrett	172	183	162	146	158	156	150	135
Washington	154	137	132	140	137	118	120	123
Fifth Circuit								
Anne Arundel	151	168	156	151	121	128	135	122
Carroll	164	163	153	164	139	146	140	144
Howard	264	185	187	216	130	134	136	138
Sixth Circuit								
Frederick	182	168	172	189	152	139	148	152
Montgomery	111	114	103	102	90	92	85	86
Seventh Circuit								
Calvert	134	166	170	162	116	136	128	134
Charles	177	158	180	155	153	139	154	143
Prince George's	152	134	134	141	127	109	113	120
St. Mary's	142	204	179	121	126	124	108	116
Eighth Circuit								
Baltimore City	145	158	179	122	110	109	122	85
Statewide	150	149	157	139	117	114	121	108

*This column provides a more accurate estimate of average case time by excluding older cases which may have failed to be reported statistically as closed. The Judiciary is working to alleviate aberrations in statistics by improving the reporting and maintenance of data. Also, designs for several new reports are underway, including a report to track warrant cases, that will help to provide a more accurate depiction of actual case disposition time. In addition, more intense training will be provided to individuals responsible for reporting and maintaining statistics to ensure that accurate data are compiled.

TABLE 3 (CONT'D.)

FILING TO DISPOSITION OF CASES TERMINATED
IN FISCAL 1997, 1998, 1999 AND 2000

	All Civil Cases				Excluding Cases Over 721 Days*			
	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
First Circuit								
Dorchester	260	237	280	290	190	190	182	215
Somerset	141	147	154	201	115	113	132	149
Wicomico	175	395	232	366	140	174	180	229
Worcester	306	216	239	363	192	178	164	193
Second Circuit								
Caroline	419	371	258	287	172	184	164	163
Cecil	233	295	242	264	172	191	205	189
Kent	230	209	235	263	192	191	198	187
Queen Anne's	177	169	176	188	166	164	154	167
Talbot	213	214	246	258	173	187	201	215
Third Circuit								
Baltimore	266	514	476	303	197	206	222	209
Harford	256	363	491	359	155	228	206	244
Fourth Circuit								
Allegany	267	183	193	208	226	171	184	183
Garrett	228	260	229	241	190	198	186	204
Washington	216	198	275	262	154	151	177	188
Fifth Circuit								
Anne Arundel	445	358	372	416	238	247	246	263
Carroll	262	256	303	368	182	188	211	241
Howard	297	305	319	553	220	237	230	241
Sixth Circuit								
Frederick	422	426	292	297	229	210	232	214
Montgomery	212	116	159	159	177	103	153	148
Seventh Circuit								
Calvert	254	240	364	370	200	204	222	225
Charles	250	271	286	406	181	192	187	212
Prince George's	341	340	325	355	225	248	232	238
St. Mary's	259	232	308	301	196	186	196	199
Eighth Circuit								
Baltimore City	577	721	473	391	272	282	276	247
Statewide	308	338	338	333	202	209	214	219

*This column provides a more accurate estimate of average case time by excluding older cases which may have failed to be reported statistically as closed. The Judiciary is working to alleviate aberrations in statistics by improving the reporting and maintenance of data. Also, designs for several new reports are underway, including a report to track cases that should be disposed due to lack of activity. This will result in a more accurate depiction of actual case disposition time. In addition, more intense training will be provided to individuals responsible for reporting and maintaining statistics to ensure that accurate data are compiled.

TABLE 3 (CONT'D.)
FILING TO DISPOSITION OF CASES TERMINATED
IN FISCAL 1997, 1998, 1999 AND 2000

	All Juvenile Cases				Excluding Cases Over 271 Days*			
	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
First Circuit								
Dorchester	82	65	79	68	53	65	76	68
Somerset	47	28	17	36	19	25	17	33
Wicomico	46	85	71	70	45	49	51	55
Worcester	51	77	90	81	49	62	46	45
Second Circuit								
Caroline	16	77	21	42	16	24	21	32
Cecil	250	105	96	98	68	69	70	73
Kent	57	77	82	71	57	67	52	71
Queen Anne's	53	48	85	88	53	48	57	70
Talbot	36	20	22	26	36	20	22	26
Third Circuit								
Baltimore	70	87	115	97	64	78	74	75
Harford	83	92	86	87	80	81	82	77
Fourth Circuit								
Allegany	97	70	74	92	79	65	70	71
Garrett	45	54	57	81	45	49	47	65
Washington	78	74	102	67	64	64	65	60
Fifth Circuit								
Anne Arundel	74	83	72	79	66	66	63	68
Carroll	96	90	99	119	74	70	75	76
Howard	144	104	127	149	74	78	72	69
Sixth Circuit								
Frederick	79	62	60	67	73	59	58	60
Montgomery	156	142	151	160	94	94	101	113
Seventh Circuit								
Calvert	143	91	96	82	74	82	73	69
Charles	76	77	84	80	75	74	68	72
Prince George's	84	105	124	83	67	67	64	64
St. Mary's	303	71	80	71	77	69	69	65
Eighth Circuit								
Baltimore City**	19	26	201	180	11	9	84	89
Statewide	79	75	130	120	53	55	75	77

*This column provides a more accurate estimate of average case time by excluding older cases which may have failed to be reported statistically as closed. The Judiciary is working to alleviate aberrations in statistics by improving reporting and maintenance of data. Also, efforts are underway to provide more intense training to individuals responsible for reporting and maintaining statistics to ensure that accurate data are compiled.

**Baltimore City experienced a reporting problem with juvenile elapsed time, however, the problem has now been corrected.

TABLE 4

**MARYLAND POPULATION CHANGE BETWEEN 1980 AND 1990 CENSUS
AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS THROUGH JULY 1, 2001**

Circuit/Jurisdiction	Actual Population		Actual Annual Rate of Change %	Population Projections		Projected Annual Rate of Change
	April 1, 1980	April 1, 1990		July 1, 1990	July 1, 2001	
First Circuit	145,240	163,043	1.23	163,590	179,500	1.07
Dorchester	30,623	30,236	-0.13	30,260	29,500	-0.28
Somerset	19,188	23,440	2.22	23,530	24,300	0.36
Wicomico	64,540	74,339	1.52	74,610	80,100	0.81
Worcester	30,889	35,028	1.34	35,190	45,600	3.25
Second Circuit	151,380	180,726	1.94	181,390	213,200	1.93
Caroline	23,143	27,035	1.68	27,120	30,100	1.21
Cecil	60,430	71,347	1.81	71,590	87,200	2.40
Kent	16,695	17,842	0.69	17,840	19,300	0.90
Queen Anne's	25,508	33,953	3.31	34,170	42,600	2.71
Talbot	25,604	30,549	1.93	30,670	34,000	1.19
Third Circuit	801,545	874,266	0.91	876,050	953,900	0.98
Baltimore	655,615	692,134	0.56	693,030	729,000	0.57
Harford	145,930	182,132	2.48	183,020	224,900	2.52
Fourth Circuit	221,132	224,477	0.15	224,540	226,700	0.11
Allegany	80,548	74,946	-0.70	74,780	69,300	-0.81
Garrett	27,498	28,138	0.23	28,160	29,400	0.48
Washington	113,086	121,393	0.73	121,600	128,000	0.58
Fifth Circuit	585,703	737,939	2.60	741,770	902,700	2.39
Anne Arundel	370,775	427,239	1.52	428,640	488,500	1.54
Carroll	96,356	123,372	2.80	124,060	159,000	3.10
Howard	118,572	187,328	5.80	189,070	255,200	3.85
Sixth Circuit	693,845	907,235	3.08	912,640	1,068,100	1.87
Frederick	114,792	150,208	3.09	151,140	198,100	3.42
Montgomery	579,053	757,027	3.07	761,500	870,000	1.57
Seventh Circuit	832,355	957,768	1.51	960,870	1,089,900	1.48
Calvert	34,638	51,372	4.83	51,780	78,400	5.66
Charles	72,751	101,154	3.90	101,850	125,800	2.59
Prince George's	665,071	729,268	0.97	730,850	793,600	0.94
St. Mary's	59,895	75,974	2.68	76,390	92,100	2.26
Eighth Circuit	786,775	736,014	-0.65	734,750	609,600	-1.87
Baltimore City	786,775	736,014	-0.65	734,750	609,600	-1.87
Statewide	4,217,975	4,781,468	1.34	4,795,600	5,243,600	1.03

SOURCES: Bureau of the Census, and Maryland Population Report July 1, 1998, and Projections to 2003. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Health Statistics.

Change in population from one year to the next is dependent upon two factors -- natural increase and net migration. Natural increase is the excess of births over deaths. Net migration is the difference between the number of people moving into an area and the number moving out. For further information, see source documents above.

TABLE 5

**CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE HEARINGS
FISCAL YEAR 2000**

Jurisdiction	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Total	Hearings Conducted Per Judge and Standing Master
First Circuit					
Dorchester County	770	1,403	334	2,507	1,567 (8)
Somerset County	985	614	237	1,836	1,311 (15)
Wicomico County	905	3,523	834	5,262	1,349 (14)
Worcester County	1,684	865	321	2,870	1,148 (19)
Second Circuit					
Caroline County	1,779	595	315	2,689	2,241 (1)
Cecil County	747	3,465	1,232	5,444	1,815 (5)
Kent County	749	446	196	1,391	1,159 (18)
Queen Anne's County	711	228	495	1,434	1,434 (11)
Talbot County	834	511	592	1,937	1,384 (13)
Third Circuit					
Baltimore County	7,248	6,964	4,884	19,096	909 (20)
Harford County	922	3,783	841	5,546	853 (22)
Fourth Circuit					
Allegany County	958	1,203	425	2,586	862 (21)
Garrett County	447	156	517	1,120	560 (24)
Washington County	1,904	3,396	1,019	6,319	1,264 (17)
Fifth Circuit					
Anne Arundel County	9,107	8,427	4,936	22,470	1,498 (9)
Carroll County	2,533	2,943	1,730	7,206	1,601 (7)
Howard County	1,202	3,073	1,929	6,204	776 (23)
Sixth Circuit					
Frederick County	1,109	1,631	3,673	6,413	1,458(10)
Montgomery County	18,859	12,351	10,680	41,890	1,995 (2)
Seventh Circuit					
Calvert County	2,697	1,801	1,269	5,767	1,922 (3)
Charles County	6,062	3,197	1,732	10,991	1,832 (4)
Prince George's County	22,008	15,720	9,479	47,207	1,628 (6)
St. Mary's County	2,610	1,028	1,236	4,874	1,283 (16)
Eighth Circuit					
Baltimore City	5,522	15,663	38,566	59,751	1,390 (12)
Total - Statewide	92,352	92,986	87,472	272,810	1,418

TABLE 6

Exhibit A-4

**COMPARATIVE WORKLOAD MEASURES PER CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
(FISCAL YEAR 2000)**

Jurisdiction (Number of Judges)^a	(1) Filings Per Judge (Rank)	(2) Pending Cases Per Judge (Rank)	(3) Dispositions Per Judge (Rank)	(4) Population Per Judge^b (Rank)	(5) Attorney/Judge^c Ratio (Rank)
<u>First Circuit</u>					
Dorchester (1)	2,197 (3)	1,168 (14)	2,161 (3)	29,600 (17)	32 (19)
Somerset (1)	2,154 (6)	1,160 (15)	2,116 (5)	24,300 (21)	14 (24)
Wicomico (3)	1,846 (15)	989 (17)	1,766 (14)	26,633 (20)	47 (14)
Worcester (2)	1,909 (14)	1,616 (10)	1,908 (10)	22,300 (22)	49 (13)
<u>Second Circuit</u>					
Caroline (1)	1,567 (20)	1,686 (8)	1,328 (22)	29,900 (16)	27 (21)
Cecil (3)	2,180 (5)	1,499 (12)	1,887 (11)	28,567 (19)	26 (22)
Kent (1)	1,375 (23)	674 (22)	1,281 (23)	19,200 (24)	34 (18)
Queen Anne's (1)	1,692 (19)	582 (24)	1,607 (18)	41,600 (8)	83 (9)
Talbot (1)	2,039 (10)	822 (19)	1,927 (9)	33,800 (12)	134 (6)
<u>Third Circuit</u>					
Baltimore (16)	1,816 (17)	3,409 (3)	1,526 (20)	45,406 (6)	180 (3)
Harford (5)	1,754 (18)	1,869 (6)	1,624 (16)	44,320 (7)	75 (11)
<u>Fourth Circuit</u>					
Allegany (2)	1,824 (16)	810 (20)	1,745 (15)	34,950 (10)	39 (15)
Garrett (1)	1,127 (24)	790 (21)	1,023 (24)	29,400 (18)	35 (17)
Washington (4)	2,109 (7)	1,009 (16)	2,044 (6)	31,950 (13)	30 (20)
<u>Fifth Circuit</u>					
Anne Arundel (10)	2,014 (11)	3,318 (2)	1,795 (13)	48,380 (5)	153 (5)
Carroll (3)	1,932 (13)	1,619 (9)	1,934 (8)	51,900 (1)	94 (7)
Howard (5)	1,556 (21)	1,578 (11)	1,550 (19)	49,900 (3)	228 (2)
<u>Sixth Circuit</u>					
Frederick (4)	2,076 (9)	2,771 (4)	1,608 (17)	48,600 (4)	87 (8)
Montgomery ^d (17)	2,190 (4)	1,172 (13)	2,214 (2)	50,659 (2)	329 (1)
<u>Seventh Circuit</u>					
Calvert (2)	2,480 (1)	873 (18)	2,448 (1)	38,050 (9)	53 (12)
Charles (4)	2,082 (8)	1,725 (7)	1,978 (7)	30,850 (14)	37 (16)
Prince George's (23)	2,013 (12)	2,400 (5)	1,834 (12)	34,248 (11)	76 (10)
St. Mary's (3)	1,447 (22)	671 (23)	1,438 (21)	30,167 (15)	26 (23)
<u>Eighth Circuit</u>					
Baltimore City (30)	2,313 (2)	2,044 (1)	2,139 (4)	20,710 (23)	160 (4)
Statewide (143)	2,032	3,085	1,884	36,415	139

^aThe number of judges used in developing the rankings in this chart is based on the number authorized in Fiscal Year 2001 (143 statewide).

^bPopulation estimate for July 1, 2000, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

^cAttorney statistics obtained from the Administrator of the Clients' Security Trust Fund as of September 11, 2000. Out-of-state attorneys are not included in these ratios.

^dIncludes juvenile cases in Montgomery County which is the jurisdiction of the District Court.

TABLE 7

COMPARED RANKING OF VARIOUS FACTORS AFFECTING JUDGESHIP ALLOCATION

	Ranking of Predictive Factors				Ranking of Performance Factors (Inverted Ranking Used ^a to Show Longest Times)		
	Filings	Population	Pending Cases	Attorneys	Time/ Civil	Time/ Criminal	Time/ Juvenile
First Circuit							
Dorchester	3	17	14	19	215 (9)	142 (7)	68 (13)
Somerset	6	21	15	24	149 (23)	104 (20)	33 (22)
Wicomico	15	20	17	14	229 (7)	89 (22)	55 (20)
Worcester	14	22	10	13	193 (16)	102 (21)	45 (21)
Second Circuit							
Caroline	20	16	8	21	163 (22)	159 (2)	32 (23)
Cecil	5	19	12	22	189 (17)	185 (1)	73 (6)
Kent	23	24	22	18	187 (19)	153 (3)	71 (8)
Queen Anne's	19	8	24	9	167 (21)	106 (19)	70 (10)
Talbot	10	12	19	6	215 (10)	138 (8)	26 (24)
Third Circuit							
Baltimore	17	6	3	3	209 (13)	114 (18)	75 (5)
Harford	18	7	6	11	244 (3)	132 (12)	77 (3)
Fourth Circuit							
Allegany	16	10	20	15	183 (20)	120 (15)	71 (9)
Garrett	24	18	21	17	204 (14)	135 (10)	65 (15)
Washington	7	13	16	20	188 (18)	123 (13)	60 (18)
Fifth Circuit							
Anne Arundel	11	5	2	5	263 (1)	122 (14)	68 (14)
Carroll	13	1	9	7	241 (4)	144 (5)	76 (4)
Howard	21	3	11	2	241 (5)	138 (9)	69 (11)
Sixth Circuit							
Frederick	9	4	4	8	214 (11)	152 (4)	60 (19)
Montgomery	4	2	13	1	148 (24)	86 (23)	113 (1)
Seventh Circuit							
Calvert	1	9	18	12	225 (8)	134 (11)	69 (12)
Charles	8	14	7	16	212 (12)	143 (6)	72 (7)
Prince George's	12	11	5	10	238 (6)	120 (16)	64 (17)
St. Mary's	22	15	23	23	199 (15)	116 (17)	65 (16)
Eighth Circuit							
Baltimore City	2	23	1	4	247 (2)	85 (24)	89 (2)

^aLower number indicates greater need for judgeship. For example, a number one ranking of a predictive factor would indicate a higher amount of volume, whereas, a number one ranking of a performance factor would indicate a slower ability to handle workload.

**COLLECTIVE RANKING OF JURISDICTIONS
BY BOTH PREDICTIVE AND PERFORMANCE FACTORS**
(FISCAL 2000)**

Summary of Predictive Factors by Jurisdiction*		Summary of Performance Factors by Jurisdiction*	
1. Baltimore City	(8.75)	1. Carroll County	(9.3)
2. Montgomery County	(10.25)	2. Harford County	(6.0)
3. Anne Arundel County	(11.75)	3. Cecil County	(8.0)
4. Frederick County	(11.75)	4. Howard County	(8.3)
5. Calvert County	(15.0)	5. Charles County	(8.3)
6. Carroll County	(16.25)	6. Baltimore City	(9.3)
7. Baltimore County	(16.5)	7. Dorchester County	(9.7)
8. Prince George's County	(16.75)	8. Anne Arundel County	(9.7)
9. Charles County	(17.0)	9. Kent County	(10.0)
10. Dorchester County	(18.25)	10. Calvert County	(10.3)
11. Cecil County	(20.0)	11. Frederick County	(11.3)
12. Harford County	(21.0)	12. Baltimore County	(12.0)
13. Washington County	(21.5)	13. Prince George's County	(13.0)
14. Talbot County	(21.5)	14. Garrett County	(13.0)
15. Howard County	(22.5)	15. Talbot County	(14.0)
16. Somerset County	(23.25)	16. Allegany County	(14.7)
17. Worcester County	(24.25)	17. Caroline County	(15.7)
18. Allegany County	(27.5)	18. St. Mary's County	(16.0)
19. Wicomico County	(28.25)	19. Montgomery County	(16.0)
20. Caroline County	(28.25)	20. Washington County	(16.3)
21. Queen Anne's County	(30.5)	21. Wicomico County	(16.3)
22. Garrett County	(37.25)	22. Queen Anne's County	(16.7)
23. St. Mary's County	(37.5)	23. Worcester County	(19.3)
24. Kent County	(38.75)	24. Somerset County	(21.7)

*Collective ranking determined by assigning a weight of three to filing per judge, a weight of one to population per judge, a weight of two to pending cases per judge, and a weight of one to the ratio of attorneys to judges.

*Collective ranking determined by assigning a weight of one to the filing to disposition times for criminal, civil, and juvenile cases. Inverted ranking to show longest times

**Lower number indicates greater need for judgeship; for example, a number one ranking of a predictive factor would indicate a higher amount of volume whereas a number one ranking of a performance factor would indicate a slower ability to handle workload. If a jurisdiction is listed near the top of both lists, then this shows that a relatively strong need exists for a judge based on the variables considered.

**PROJECTED NUMBER OF ESTIMATED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JUDICIAL OFFICERS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**

	Projected Filings 2002 ^a	No. of Judges	No. of Standing Masters ^b	Adjusted Number Judicial Resources	Average Projected No. of Filings Per Judge and Standing Master 2002	Additional Judicial Resources Needed by Standard ^c
First Circuit						
Dorchester	2,140	1.0	0.6	1.6	1.337	0.2
Somerset	2,379	1.0	0.4	1.4	1.699	0.6
Wicomico	5,700	3.0	0.9	3.9	1.462	0.9
Worcester	4,084	2.0	0.5	2.5	1.634	0.9
Circuit Total	14,303	7.0	2.4	9.4	1,522	2.6
Second Circuit						
Caroline	1,747	1.0	0.2	1.2	1.456	0.3
Cecil	5,132	3.0	0.0	3.0	1.711	1.3
Kent	1,470	1.0	0.2	1.2	1.225	0.0
Queen Anne's	1,835	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.835	0.5
Talbot	2,088	1.0	0.4	1.4	1.491	0.3
Circuit Total	12,272	7.0	0.8	7.8	1,573	2.4
Third Circuit						
Baltimore	29,964	16.0	5.0	21.0	1.427	0.0
Harford	8,187	5.0	1.5	6.5	1.260	0.3
Circuit Total	38,151	21.0	6.5	27.5	1,387	0.3
Fourth Circuit						
Allegany	4,027	2.0	1.0	3.0	1.342	0.4
Garrett	1,147	1.0	1.0	2.0	.574	0.0
Washington	9,650	4.0	1.0	5.0	1.930	3.0
Circuit Total	14,824	7.0	3.0	10.0	1,482	3.4
Fifth Circuit						
Anne Arundel	18,605	10.0	5.0	15.0	1.240	0.0
Carroll	5,550	3.0	1.5	4.5	1.233	0.1
Howard	8,390	5.0	3.0	8.0	1.049	0.0
Circuit Total	32,545	18.0	9.5	27.5	1,183	0.1
Sixth Circuit						
Frederick	7,604	4.0	0.4	4.4	1.728	1.9
Montgomery	34,874	17.0	4.0	21.0	1.661	2.2
Circuit Total	42,478	21.0	4.4	25.4	1,672	4.1
Seventh Circuit						
Calvert	4,994	2.0	1.0	3.0	1.665	1.2
Charles	9,003	4.0	2.0	6.0	1.501	1.5
Prince George's	46,871	23.0	6.0	29.0	1.616	2.2
St. Mary's	4,981	3.0	0.8	3.8	1.311	0.4
Circuit Total	65,849	32.0	9.8	41.8	1,575	5.3
Eighth Circuit						
Baltimore City	68,651	30.0	13.0	43.0	1.597	2.8
Circuit Total	68,651	30.0	13.0	43.0	1,597	2.8

*Circuit courts in Harford and Montgomery Counties hear matters that would ordinarily be heard by the Orphans' Court. Beginning with Fiscal Year 1998, the Orphans' Court statistics for Montgomery County were included with the civil figures. Approximately 30 case filings were added to Harford County's projection for Fiscal Year 2002.

*Full-time and part-time juvenile and domestic masters are included in this column but not masters who are compensated on a fee basis. They are calculated as a percentage of a judicial officer because of the number of filings handled yearly by these individuals.

This column does not reflect the use of retired judges recalled to service because of unfilled judicial vacancies and illnesses of active judges. In Fiscal Year 2000 a total of 1,779 judge days (including settlement conferences) were provided by retired circuit court judges.

Although efforts have been made to establish a weighted caseload statistical system, it has not been practicable to do so effectively. Obviously, in terms of time and complexity, some cases are many times more demanding than others. While each circuit court tends to have its share of these more difficult cases, some courts have experienced these cases in very substantial numbers; e.g., asbestos litigation which is handled primarily in Baltimore City for the entire state (approximately 12,000 pending cases, including a consolidated common issues case involving 2,000 plaintiffs) and lead paint cases. The trial of these cases takes in the extreme sometimes 8-12 weeks or longer. The same rationale is applicable in death penalty cases.

Increases in the number of projected filings is due in large part to the influx of criminal cases transferred to the circuit courts from the District Court where the defendant is entitled to and demands a jury trial. Less than 2 percent of these cases (total filings of 27,365 in Fiscal Year 2000) actually results in jury trials; most are disposed of by plea negotiation between the prosecution and defense rather than by actual trial.

*The scale utilized for this column in Fiscal Year 2002 is as follows: 1200 filings - 1 to 8 judicial officers and 1500 filings - 9 or more judges and standing masters.

Exhibit A-5

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
First Judicial Circuit



Exhibit A-5

The Circuit Court for Somerset County

FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

DANIEL M. LONG
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE

P.O. BOX 279

PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853-0279

TELEPHONE (410) 651-1631
FAX (410) 651-1678

August 15, 2000

Mr. Frank Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

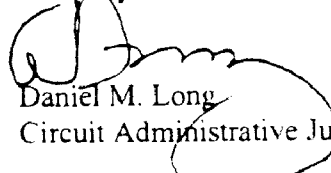
Dear Frank,

Your letter of July 18, 2000 requested that we identify factors in our jurisdiction that would justify the need for additional judicial resources. In response thereto, I would reference my letter to you of last year (a copy is enclosed). Little has changed from September of 1999.

As you are very aware, legislation proposed last year, and only partially implemented, would have provided for our masters to become full time. We anticipate that the funding to fully implement the legislation will be approved this year. We also were unsuccessful in passing legislation that would have created a new judgeship for Worcester County. The Chief Judge certified the need for the judge. I would respectfully suggest that the Statistical Needs Analysis provides that we are still in need of an additional judge for Worcester (who will be assigned to sit in all four of the counties of our circuit) and the increased assistance from our masters.

If you need any additional information, please let me know. As always, we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,


Daniel M. Long
Circuit Administrative Judge

cc: Hon. Robert M. Bell
Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg
Hon. Donald F. Johnson
Hon. D. William Simpson



The Circuit Court for Somerset County

FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

DANIEL M. LONG
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

P.O. BOX 279

TELEPHONE
(410) 651-1630

PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853-0279

September 2, 1999

Mr. Frank Broccolina
Deputy State Court Administrator
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Judgeship needs

Dear Frank,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 17, 1999 in which you solicited my thoughts as to the need for additional judgeships for the First Judicial Circuit. A copy of your letter was sent to the County Administrative Judges in our circuit for response. I understand that you have received comments directly from Judges Theodore R. Eschenburg and Donald F. Johnson. Although I did not receive a letter from Judge D. William Simpson, I spoke to him yesterday in Salisbury about your letter.

I accept and endorse most, if not all of the comments from Judge Eschenburg and Judge Johnson. It is clear that there is a need for at least one additional judge for the First Circuit. In fact, the data made part of the Statistical Needs Analysis from last year at Table 9 reflects a need "by Standard" for three additional judicial officers. As a result of the change in the manner in which we are to utilize the services of masters, our circuit will be impacted significantly if we do not have more judicial assistance.

Judge Simpson has not indicated a need for an additional judge for Wicomico County but recognizes that I am no longer sending a Wicomico County judge to Dorchester County as was the practice for years. Changing the policy was necessary (at least temporarily) because of the extended vacancy in the Wicomico County Circuit Court occasioned by the elevation of Judge Sally D. Adkins to the Court of Special Appeals. I am also concerned that we are seeing a proliferation of medical malpractice filings in Wicomico County that by their very nature will consume a great deal of the court's time.

For the last two years, Somerset County has ranked second in the number of filings per judge. In 1990, when I was first appointed, we were eighteenth in the state. We do not have

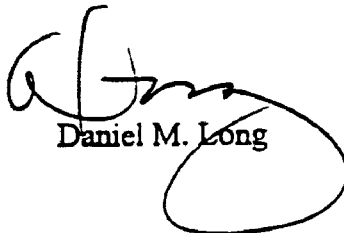
room in our courthouse for an additional judge, however, if we can utilize some of the space in the District Court as we do for our part-time master, we could use assistance on an occasional basis. The presence of Eastern Correctional Institution in our county with the civil filings from its inmates has impacted our civil docket.

All of our judges work hard as suggested by the fact that we rank first, third, fourth and eleventh in moving cases from filing to disposition (Table 8, Statistical Needs Analysis). However, with the change in the masters' duties and responsibilities and with growing caseloads in all four of our counties, we will need additional judicial resources to continue to deliver the kinds of services that our citizens have come to expect.

Accordingly, I am requesting at least one, possibly two additional judges for our circuit as soon as possible. The judge or judges would be true "circuit judges" spending a part of every month in each of the four counties. The details of scheduling and local funding would need to be worked out by the County Administrative Judges and my office.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Long

cc: Hon. Robert M. Beli
Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg
Hon. Donald F. Johnson
Hon. D. William Simpson

Exhibit A-6

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Second Judicial Circuit



The Second Judicial Circuit of Maryland

CIRCUIT COURT FOR TALBOT COUNTY

WILLIAM S. HORNE
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

October 20, 2000

COURT HOUSE
11 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601
410-822-4444

Mr. Frank Broccolina
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

Pursuant to your request, I have reviewed the Statistical Needs Analysis for new judgeships in the Circuit Courts in the 2nd Judicial Circuit.

While it is too late to consider an additional judge for any of the five counties in the 2nd Circuit for the year 2001, I feel that consideration should be given to the appointment of a second judge for Queen Anne's County in the 2002 budget. A look at the most recent statistics reveals a significant increase in the population of Queen Anne's County, with a resultant increase in the caseload of the Circuit Court. The projections of these filings indicate a anticipated continuation of this trend.

It should also be noted that Queen Anne County is currently taking the necessary steps to create additional space for a second judge of the Circuit Court.

In addition to the above, it is noteworthy that Talbot County is currently remodeling a wing of its courthouse to create a second courtroom and chambers for a second Circuit Court judge. While I believe the situation in Queen Anne's County deserves prior attention, I would anticipate that Talbot County should be considered for an additional judge the following year. The situation in Talbot County could become more acute if the jurisdiction of the masters becomes more limited.

It is not felt that Caroline, Cecil and Kent Counties require an additional judge at this time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. S. Horne".

William S. Horne

WSH:ld

cc: County Administrative Judges of the 2nd Judicial Circuit

Exhibit A-7

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Third Judicial Circuit



The Circuit Court for Baltimore County

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

CHAMBERS OF
EDWARD A. DEWATERS, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE AND
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
TOWSON MD 21204
410.887.2642
FAX 410.887.5910

August 24, 2000

Mr. Frank Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Frank:

This is in response to your correspondence concerning the identification of various factors that have contributed to or impacted upon the workload of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in the past fiscal year and which have had an effect on the need for additional judgeships. As you are aware, there are a number of factors stated in the judgeship report prepared by your office that indicate, at least initially, where there may be a statistical need for an additional judgeship(s). These include both predictive factors (such as the number of filings per judge, population per judge, the number of pending cases per judge and the ratio of attorneys to judges) and performance factors (which include data on the elapse time of criminal, civil and juvenile cases). In addition to these factors, there are a number of other variables that influence the need for additional judicial resources. Some of these are external, such as new legislation or mandates by the General Assembly while others may be considered internal, such as caseload complexity or the alternative methods used by certain courts to handle their workload such as through the use of ADR, masters and/or retired judges. Over the years, our Court has undertaken a number of programs and initiatives to make certain that the workload of the Court is more manageable. Some of these have included the following.

- **Criminal Workload-** Fast tracking instant jury trial requests from the District Court has made a significant impact on the need for additional judges in our County. Since 1989, our Court has consistently experienced 3,000 fewer filings or the equivalent of two judgeships because these cases are tried the same day or next day in the Circuit Court once the defendant requests a jury trial in the District Court.

-2-

- **Civil Workload-** There have been a number of legislative changes such as increasing the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court which have from time to time made a temporary change in the Circuit Court's civil workload, however, over a longer period of time, the number of civil filings continues to climb back to where it was previously. In Fiscal Year 2000, contract cases, motor torts and personal injuries are down as result of the legislation enacted 18 months ago which increased the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Courts to \$25,000. Our Court has been ambitious in making certain that civil workload demands are handled through various alternative resources such as the civil mediation program where there are over 90 mediators assigned to cases prior to discovery. The Court also makes use of retired judges to conduct settlement conferences, 30 days prior to trial and to hear cases that are placed on stand-by when there are no other full-time judges available to hear matters on the day of trial.
- **Family Division Workload-** While the number of civil cases in Fiscal Year 2000 has been somewhat fewer, by contrast, the number of domestic cases have risen according to statistics furnished by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Most notable increases include domestic cases other than divorce which increased by 19% (from 2,169 in FY 99 to 2,564 in FY 00), paternity cases which rose by 6% (from 1,339 in FY 99 to 1,416 in FY 00) and divorce cases which jumped by 4% (from 4,001 in FY 99 to 4,145 in FY 00). Much of this caseload increases seems to correlate to overall increases in the County's population. In order to resolve the contested domestic cases as quickly as possible in the early stages of the dispute, Family Division Masters and full-time court mediators are utilized to resolve a myriad of issues ranging from child support to custody and visitation of children. These programs have been quite successful in resolving, sometimes totally, the early issues in our domestic cases.

Despite these accomplishments, the Court is also looking at restructuring the process of handling chambers matters. Currently, one (plus) judge handles all chambers issues in both civil (non- domestic) and domestic cases. Over the past several years and particularly with the creation of the Family Division, a tremendous burden has been placed on the judge assigned to these duties, especially on days when there are a large number of Ex Parte Domestic Violence cases to consider. With the growing Family Division workload and with the proposed handling of District Court Domestic Violence Protective Order hearings in the Circuit Court when a related matter has been filed in the Family Division, it is easy to perceive that two new judges could be added to the Family Division in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County.

-3-

- **Juvenile Workload-** According to recent data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts for Fiscal Year 2000, total juvenile filings rose by 29 % over the previous year. Approximately 5,460 cases were filed in FY 00 as compared to 4,250 cases in FY 99. All of this, of course, places more of an increase burden on limited resources to hear these cases, many of which require multiple hearings. Our Court has been vigilant to this increase and has been using a retired judge whenever possible for purposes of CINA reviews

I hope that this brief explanation describes the various factors effecting judgeship needs in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County over the past year. With respect to the Harford County, I have forwarded your correspondence to Judge Carr but as of this date I have not heard from him. If you or your staff have any questions related to this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



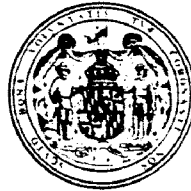
Edward A. DeWaters, Jr.

Chief Judge and Administrative Judge

cc: Honorable Robert M. Bell
Peter J. Lally
Michael Neale
Faye Gaskins

Exhibit A-8

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Fourth Judicial Circuit



FRED C. WRIGHT III
CHIEF JUDGE
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MARYLAND

CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
TELEPHONE (301) 791-3111
FAX (301) 791-2048

August 15, 2000

Mr. Frank A. Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Frank:

In response to your request identifying factors contributing to Washington County's 1999-2000 caseload/workload, I must first make the general observation that in 1992 (the year the General Assembly recognized the need for a fourth judge) there were approximately 5,600 filings, and, in FY 1999, nearly 8,700 filings became the caseload for those four judges during the last fiscal year - a 55% increase in annual workload based on numbers.

Civil

The total number of original and reopened cases have peaked and have remained constant for the last three years - with slightly fewer original filings but a greater number of reopened matters during fiscal 2000. The increase in "reopened" filings is directly related to family law matters and the return of pro se litigants to the courthouse for modifications of support, custody and visitation (handled by our master) as well as a significant increase in contempts (handled only by judges).

Although "original" cases are slightly down, the phenomenon, which began several years ago - insurance carriers requesting trials by jury - has become standard for Washington County and has institutionalized more, longer, time-consuming jury trials. We have shown a significant increase in multi-day jury trials such as medical malpractice cases. On the other hand, the prison population at MCI, Roxbury and MCTC provides an ever steady number of inmate filings (habeas corpus, reviews of administrative agency decisions, etc.) but judicial response to those cases does not require so much courtroom time as they do law clerk analysis.

Mr. Frank A. Broccolina
Page 2
August 15, 2000

In sum, the same factors were present in FY 2000 which were identified in FY 1999; however, family law and tort litigation have become significantly more demanding.

Criminal

Although 13th in population, we continue to be 6th in original and reopened criminal filings by following the five metropolitan jurisdictions. Over 60% of the docket are cases transferred from the District Court by jury prayers; and with the newly constructed Boubnitz District Court Building encompassing only two courtrooms, I see no relief from this burdensome statistic.

The second significant factor impacting upon FY 2000 caseload continues to be the drug trade. Notwithstanding enforcement efforts and strict sentencing of those in the chain of drug distribution, our location at the intersection of I70 and I81 makes us a prime market place for the illicit business that responds only to the economics of supply and demand.

I would therefore expect our criminal caseload and judicial workload to remain constant.

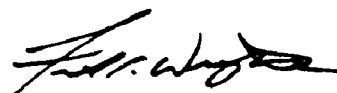
Juvenile

Both delinquent and CINA matters have shown a slight decrease in filings. As we set aside one full day for JSS cases and another full day for DSS matters each week, our workload is not affected.

We have however seen an increase in the number of hearings to terminate parental rights; and the attention to detail required of the court necessitates special scheduling and management of these cases. I would expect our judicial involvement in the movement from foster care towards adoption to continue.

All that I reported in August 1999 (copy attached) is as true today as then.

Sincerely,



Fred C. Wright, III

FCW:djg



FRED C. WRIGHT III
CHIEF JUDGE
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MARYLAND

August 25, 1999

CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21401
TELEPHONE 301-794-1111
FAX 301-794-1048

Mr. Frank A. Broccolina
Deputy State Court Administrator
Robert C. Murphy Court of Appeals Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Frank:

An analysis of the statistical reports for the fiscal year just ending reveals a two-year consistency which I hope means a leveling off from the previously increasing volume for our Circuit Court.

Washington County continues to be the sixth jurisdiction (behind only the five metropolitan courts) in the number of criminal filings - with approximately 1900 in each of the last two years. "Hot Spot" designation has increased the enforcement against drug crimes emanating from our market place. Easy access for both buyer and seller from any direction by way of I70 and I81 brings into the county out-of-state suppliers/dealers and their propensity for violence. Notwithstanding strict sentencing, so long as we continue to be recognized as an easy market, I would expect the number of original and reopened criminal filings to remain at approximately 2,500 per year.

Juvenile cases likewise followed an upward trend, reaching 536 original filings and 558 reopened filings during fiscal '97-'98, and remained at that level - a total of 1,094 - during the past year. I would expect future years to be constant unless we see a general population increase for Washington County. As you know, all juvenile matters are heard by judges.

The civil original filings peaked at approximately 3,000 during fiscal '97-'98 and remained at that level - 2,916 - during the year ending June 30. However, the number of "reopened" civil cases jumped dramatically - from 1,761 to 2,123.

This 21% increase is the direct result of pro se experiences whereby, already having obtained divorce, custody, support, visitation, etc. (without the benefit of counsel and often after

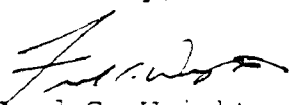
Mr. Frank Broccolina
Page two
August 25, 1999

waiver of costs), a party reenters the courthouse and reopens by filing for contempt, modification, etc. Furthermore, because there is no attorney to negotiate a settlement prior to trial, the number of actual hearings in family law matters has also increased by approximately 25%.

Appeals from Workers' Compensation Commission decisions generate jury trials for us in nearly every case and as long as our juries continue to return very conservative verdicts in tort actions, thereby giving no incentive to insurers to offer reasonable settlements, we, like most other jurisdictions, will continue to be burdened with an inordinate number of jury trials. Hopefully the Jury Study Commission will recommend legislation limiting judicial review of Workers' Compensation matters to the record. Also changes in the Maryland Rules giving judges the authority to mandate alternative dispute resolution would result in a reduction of jury trials.

We are statistically today where we were last year. Quoting from the Certification of Need for Additional Judges for Fiscal 2000, "Washington County has shown a need for an additional judge since 1994." But we four are working even harder - terminating 8,636 cases as opposed to 7,287. In contrast, please see closure figures for the five-judge counties of Harford and Howard (6,594 and 7,073 respectively).

Sincerely,



Fred C. Wright, III

FCW:djg
CC: Hon. Robert M. Bell

Exhibit A-9

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit



Fifth Judicial Circuit of Maryland

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

CLAYTON GREENE, JR.
FIFTH CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

September 8, 2000

TELEPHONE 410-221-1111
FAX 410-221-1112

Mr. Frank Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 18, 2000 regarding the need for Judges at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. Our Court has made tremendous strides in recent history through the development of our case management of Family Law and Civil (Non-family Law) cases. We are now managing our cases much better, and learning more about the flow of cases through our court.

What we have seen through this process, however, is that our judicial resources are precious and the amount of work we ask of our judges continues to increase-even as the number of case filings do not increase dramatically. Our case management mirrors that of other jurisdictions in that we call upon judges to conduct scheduling conferences. These conferences enables the court to encourage parties to get involved in a case early in the process, and educates the court as to the needs of any particular case.

We discovered that the involvement of a judge improves the success of an effective case management effort. We have struggled to add these proceedings to our already full dockets, and find that we are extremely limited in our ability to give the conferences the time they deserve.

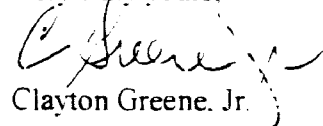
Probably, the area of most concern to our court regarding judicial resources is the continued evaluation of the role of Masters in Chancery within the statewide judicial plan. As you know, in Anne Arundel County we rely heavily upon the work of five Masters. As the duties and responsibilities of Masters are redefined we will need additional Judges.

The court has worked to reduce the time to trial and to assure that assigned trial dates are meaningful dates. This has been the mandate of courts across the country, and the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County has made significant strides to meet the mandate. Judicial resources are needed to assist us in reaching our goals. The ultimate goal is to enhance the public's trust and confidence in the judicial system.

To that end we ask that Chief Judge Bell and the Administrative Office of the Courts consider the creation of two new judgeships in Anne Arundel County in the upcoming year. Fortunately, we now have a courthouse which can sustain these additions to the work force. Once we receive word that these positions are approved, we can move forward and create the chambers and courtrooms necessary to accommodate the personnel changes.

If you have any questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

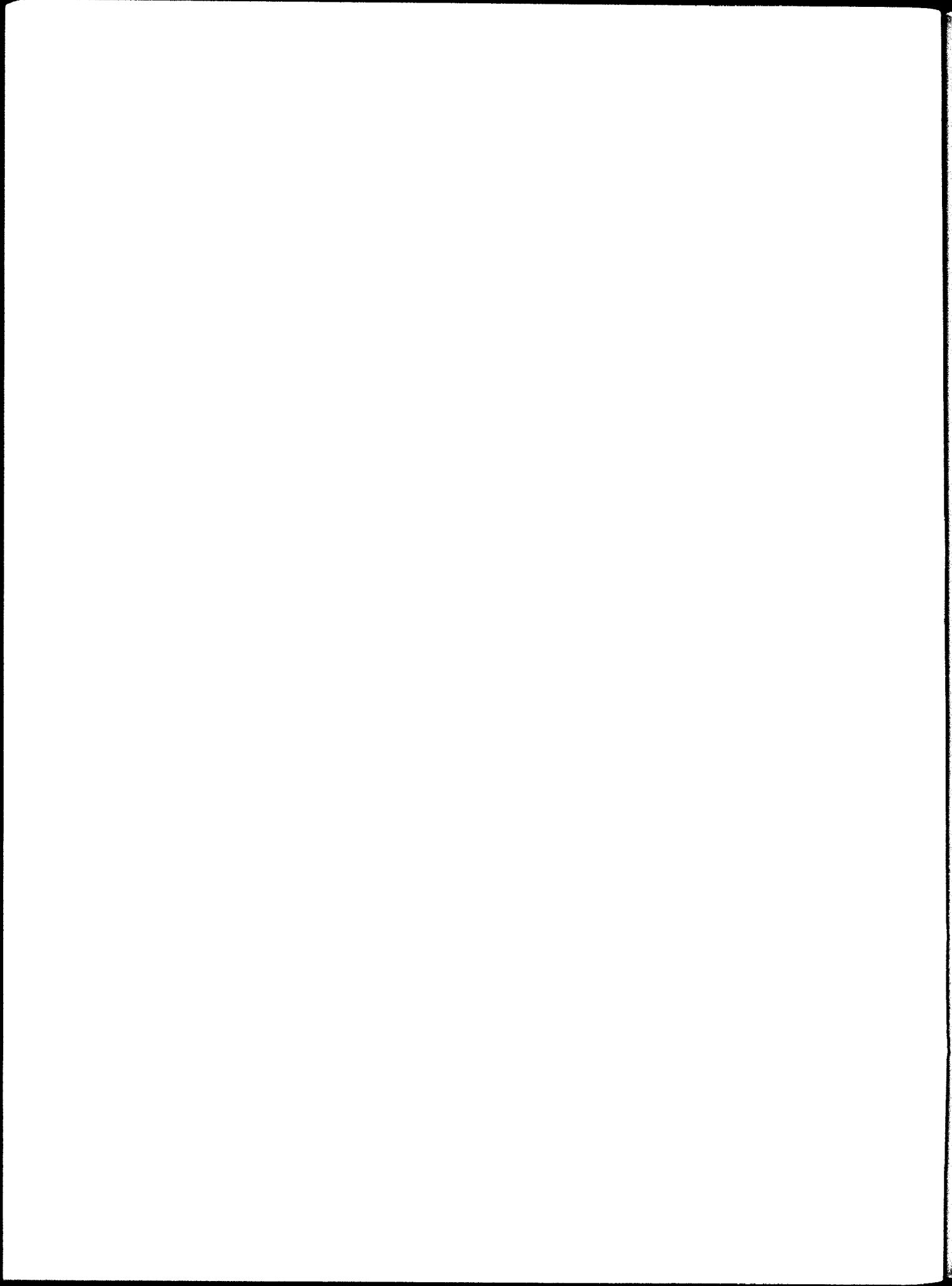
Very truly yours,

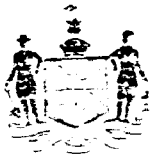


Clayton Greene, Jr.

Exhibit A-10

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Sixth Judicial Circuit





SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MARYLAND
JUDICIAL CENTER
50 MARYLAND AVENUE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

PAUL H. WEINSTEIN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

(301) 773-9180

July 31, 2000

Mr. Frank Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Frank
Dear Mr. Broccolina:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 18, 2000. Specifically, you requested that we identify workload factors that have significantly impacted our caseload during the past fiscal year. Our concern is not only with historical workloads, but is immediate and lies directly with the family division.

In 1997, when we considered the implementation of proposed Rule 16-204, and thereafter when we applied the Interim Master Policy as recommended by the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, we concluded that additional judicial positions were necessary to sufficiently operate the family division. The statewide philosophy on family divisions, as adopted by the judiciary, was to provide the most effective case management principles and practical alternatives for the constructive resolution of issues. The family divisions were to deal exclusively with matters affecting the family unit and provide services necessary to improve the lives of children and adult family members. Simultaneously, the judiciary embarked upon a judge-based family forum rather than a master-based system of justice.

July 31, 2000
Page Two
Mr. Frank Broccolina

Based upon the new philosophy in which family divisions were to deal exclusively with familial issues, Montgomery County took the initiative to begin the implementation of the one judge/one team approach to domestic matters anticipating, of course, that judicial positions were forthcoming. That unfortunately, has not yet occurred. Even prior to the inception of the new rule, our concerns have continually been associated with the proper number of judicial positions available to sit in the family rotation. We are not reaching these cases as timely as we should due to scheduling availability. If we are to truly address the family division concept, we must have adequate judicial resources to do so.

In closing, I foresee a precipitous increase in family division workload. I believe the concerns outlined above are not only permanent in nature, but are on a statewide basis. Unless new judgeship positions are acquired not only for Montgomery County, but other jurisdictions implementing Maryland Rule 16-204, we will find ourselves in a dysfunctional situation. Thank you in advance for consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul".

Paul H. Weinstein

/pqh

cc: Pamela Q. Harris, Court Administrator

Exhibit A-11

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Seventh Judicial Circuit



Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland

COURT HOUSE

UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND 20772

WILLIAM D. MISSOURI
SEVENTH CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

(301) 952 3728
FAX (301) 952 3204

September 8, 2000

Frank Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1699

Dear Mr. Broccolina: *Frank*

Initially, let me apologize for the tardiness in responding to your letter of inquiry dated July 18, 2000 regarding factors that may have contributed to or impacted upon our court's workload and/or caseload in a significant way. I was under the impression that I had responded to your letter, but upon close examination and research, I have determined that the letter was not responded to and I offer my apologies.

I have reviewed our judges' caseload in reference to your letter, and it will come as no surprise to you that the Family Law Division is our critical area of operations. With the approval of the recent Rules amendment that formalized the interim policy on the utilization of masters within the court, the workload for judges in the Family Court has grown enormously. As you are aware, for quite some time now we have relied heavily upon our excellent masters' outstanding work performances. Because the new Rule formalizing the interim policy requires us to reassign matters from the masters to judges, our overall judicial responsibilities in the Family Division has changed dramatically.

In addition to the above, the court also finds it desirable to add a judge in chambers exclusively for Family Law matters. This will allow the coordinating judge for Family to attend to administrative responsibilities and assume a less erratic court schedule.

I will now turn to an issue that may exceed the response requested in your letter of July 18th. However, I feel it necessary to speak about judicial needs within the Family Division. The Rule which adopted the interim policy regarding masters in the Circuit Court necessitates my requesting two new judgeships for Prince George's County. These judgeships will be dedicated to the Family Law Division. Should the court receive those judgeships, it will enable us to reduce our dependence upon retired judges who are called in to substitute for sitting judges when those judges are ill or needed for other case types. This is not to say that we will never need the

services of a retired judge because circumstances often dictate that we need the ability, on an *ad hoc* basis, to recall retired judges for various trials.

In closing, I apologize again for being tardy in responding to your letter of July 18, 2000. And, whatever I can do to assist you in the arduous task you have of presenting matters to the Legislature, please do not hesitate to call upon me. With best regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill", written in dark ink.

William D. Missouri
Administrative Judge
Seventh Circuit

cc: Suzanne H. James, Court Administrator



Seventh Judicial Circuit Of Maryland

Circuit Court for Calvert County
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

Warren J. Krug
County Administrative Judge

August 21, 200

(410) 535-1000 Ext. 290
(301) 855-1243 Ext. 290
FAX - (410) 535-9330

Mr. Frank Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: New Judgeship Needs

Frank
Dear Mr. Broccolina:

This is to advise you of the continued need for a third judicial position here in Calvert County. I have informed you of this need in the past, but indicated that adequate space was not available in the Courthouse, and therefore, did not request a third Circuit Court judgeship.

At this time, I find it necessary to alter my position on this matter because of recent Court decisions and Rule changes involving the authority of the Master. Consequently, I am in the process of asking the Board of County Commissioners to approve a request for a third judge. If a third judge is added, it will be necessary to abolish the present Master position, pending additional Courtroom availability. I believe that having a third judicial position outweighs the inconvenience of limited space. If a new judge is approved, that judge will use the Orphans' Court Hearing Room in the same manner as the Master does at present, unless one of the existing Courtrooms is available. In addition, I anticipate that a third judge will essentially handle the same docket as the Master is handling.

I will advise you immediately when the Board of County Commissioners has advised me whether they will support a third judgeship.

Very truly yours,

War
Warren J. Krug

WJK/wlm

Via FAX & Regular Mail

cc: Hon. William D. Missouri (via FAX)

Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech
1-800-735-2258 Statewide Toll Free

Exhibit A-12

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Eighth Judicial Circuit



Circuit Court
for
Baltimore City

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND
111 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

ELLEN M. HELLER
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

410.346.4471
FAX 410.346.4471
COURT REPORTERS
410.346.4471

August 7, 2000

Mr. Frank Broccolina
State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Maryland Judicial Center
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

I am responding to your letter of July 18, 2000, in which you have requested information pertaining to judgeship needs. As you know, our dockets are divided into four areas: Civil, Family/Domestic, Family/Juvenile and Criminal. I am enclosing with this letter, memoranda I have received regarding the family/domestic and juvenile dockets. You will see in regard to the Juvenile docket that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of TPR Petitions being processed by that division and that the division is behind statutory time lines in spite of utilizing full-time, three Judges, and nine Masters.

In Family/Domestic docket, there are approximately 10,000 cases filed each year and an increasing number of *pro se* cases. As the enclosed memorandum indicates, these *pro se* cases require longer hearing times, which then slows down the entire docket. The three Judges presiding over that division, are constantly busy and also could easily use additional judicial assistance.

Based on table CC-8 put out by the AOC, the total number of civil filings in Baltimore City is 32,742 cases. If one subtracts out the domestic cases, there remain 19,472. These numbers do not include the backlogged asbestos cases. Currently, there are pending, approximately 7,500 so called, "mini-trials" which have been scheduled every three weeks in five clusters of 30 Plaintiffs (150 cases). It will take two more years to complete trials on these cases. In addition, there are approximately 4,500 pending asbestos cases that need to be scheduled. The civil docket, which has been moving forward with the assistance of senior Judges, could also use an additional Judge as well.

Finally our Criminal docket is always in need of assistance. Although, we have reduced our pending inventory to approximately 4,036 Defendants, we still schedule up to 5 felony trials

a day before individual Judges on the criminal docket. This is far too many cases for one Judge. However, in view of the needs of the other dockets, we cannot assign more Judges to this docket. I need not tell you of the enormous strides we have made in the criminal docket with the reduction in postponements, as well as, pending inventory. But, the number of new Defendants entering the system is increasing, and our Court is working very hard to process these cases in a timely and fair manner.

I hope this responds to your letter. If you need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ellen M. Heller
Administrative Judge

EMH/dlb

cc: Court Management Committee

Exhibit B

Letter To Chief Judge Bell From Chief Judge Rasin
Certifying Need For Additional
District Court Judgeships



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

MARTHA F. RASIN

Chief Judge

Court of Appeals Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Tel: (410) 260-1525
Fax: (410) 974-5026

September 6, 2000

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland
634 Courthouse East
111 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Judge Bell:

Enclosed herewith is my assessment of the need for five additional District Court judgeships for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001. I realize this is a lot after not having asked for any last year. However, my request is based on the continuing theme of how seriously the lack of justice erodes the quality of justice.

I believe there is a correlation between the way we use retired judges and a growing need for "real judges." Under our existing scheduling practices, an administrative judge may request up to two visiting judges per day to cover vacancies, vacations, etc. Therefore, on any given day we may have committed twenty-four retired judges. Our retired judges continue to be a valuable judicial resource, but I do not believe we should continue our tradition of relying solely on them to provide the level of service they have in the past. Current statistics show that from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, we assigned retired judges for a total of 1,522 judge days.

Our policy of using twenty-four "extra" judges per day just to cover routine absences has all but eliminated our ability to use retired judges for several valuable services, e.g. to assist a county in reducing a backlog; to work as settlement judges to reduce the growing need for sizeable blocks of time to hear complex cases. I believe our retired and traveling judges (those sitting judges who are sent from their assigned courthouse to sit elsewhere in the state) should be used more to address specific issues and concerns so that we can move forward in our mission and less as the lifeboat keeping us afloat.

As in past years, I solicited the views of our twelve administrative judges as to whether a need exists for any new judicial positions in their respective districts. I received requests from

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Page Two
September 6, 2000

District One (Baltimore City); District Two (Worcester County); District Four (St. Mary's County); District Five (Prince George's County); District Six (Montgomery County) and District Seven (Anne Arundel County).

I have taken into consideration the supporting documentation submitted by each and have conducted an analysis of their current and past statistics dealing with caseload, bench time, and other factors peculiar to their jurisdictions, and offer the following:

DISTRICT ONE - BALTIMORE CITY

The administrative judge in Baltimore City has submitted a request for one additional judgeship.

The most recent statistics do not show an increase in caseload, with the exception of civil filings which have slightly increased over the past year. The increase in our civil jurisdiction, however, has seen more complex cases, and the time now needed for a judge to hear these cases has greatly increased. In addition, more time is now being spent for the writing of opinions, such as the one Judge Mathews has enclosed for reference.

As you are aware, we have more "speciality" dockets in Baltimore City than in other jurisdictions. Although we have some form of "drug court" in several areas, it is not necessary for them to schedule cases five days a week. As Judge Mathews points out, judges who are assigned to this court must have special knowledge and training in the area of drug treatment. It is not unusual for us to receive requests for these judges to be excused to work with others in developing other courts of this type or in enhancing their own.

This district also has a full-time housing docket, and is the only jurisdiction in the state with condemnation powers in the District Court.

The Early Disposition Dockets, proposed by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, will run five days a week beginning in September and will put an additional strain on our judicial workforce, necessitating a full-time judge to handle the courthouse segment of this plan. Additionally, we will probably need more than one judge to cover the very heavy rent docket now that we have had to move those cases to our civil building (with smaller courtrooms) to accommodate the Early Disposition Dockets at North Avenue.

For all of the above reasons, I support Judge Mathews's request for an additional judgeship in Baltimore City.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Page Three
September 6, 2000

DISTRICT TWO - WORCESTER COUNTY

In my certification request last year I compared Worcester County to that of another one-judge county, and said I believed the time would soon come when we would have a need for a second judgeship in that jurisdiction. I believe that time has now come.

This jurisdiction houses two District Court facilities: Snow Hill and Ocean City. Our resident judge there divides his time between the two locations. As you know, there is a peculiarity that exists in that jurisdiction that exists no other place in the state: the influx of tourists into Ocean City and the resulting increase in caseload. Ocean City has a permanent residency of approximately 7,800. Between the months of May and October the residency reaches an astounding 250,000 to 300,000.¹ During those months it is necessary for us to assign three additional clerical employees and two full-time commissioners to meet the public need in that locality. Worcester County has the highest caseload per judge/population ratio than any other judge in the state.² The resident judge has consistently averaged over 30,000 cases per year, which, as Judge Norton points out in his attached documentation, is well over the average of 21,000 per judge.

A new judge in Worcester County would address the increasing workload throughout the lower Eastern Shore. Our caseload in Wicomico County has been on a steady increase, from 20,000 cases per judge in 1995 to in excess of 24,000 cases per judge in 1999.³ The Salisbury court has an extremely large number of domestic violence cases, which has resulted in having to set aside an entire docket each week to hear protective orders. Bench time averages in this jurisdiction are on a par with those in some of our largest jurisdictions, and we will start to realize some significant backlogs if we do not act now. All of the jurisdictions in this district, with the exception of Wicomico County, are one-judge jurisdictions. The creation of an additional judgeship in Worcester County would not only satisfy our needs in that jurisdiction but would enable us to keep abreast of the growing caseload in Salisbury and permit us to add an additional day for the trying of cases in our Somerset County District Court, which has also experienced a continuing increase in caseload over the past five years.

As stated earlier, in Worcester County we have the unique circumstance of having two

¹Ocean City Town Hall Statistics

²1998-1999 Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary, Table DC-5, Population and Caseload Per District Court Judge

³1998-1999 Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary, Table DC-2, Five-Year Comparative Table

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Page Four
September 6, 2000

courthouses and one judge, so we have adequate accommodations to support a judgeship. We would renovate our Wicomico court to add a third courtroom so that the new judge could sit there regularly, and we have asked that monies be placed in our budget for this purpose, contingent upon our receipt of a new judgeship in Worcester County. We expected to make such a renovation when the need arose. The need has now arisen.

To provide us with flexibility in keeping court open when local judges are not available and provide better accessibility for the public, I support Judge Norton's request for an additional judgeship in Worcester County.

DISTRICT FOUR - ST. MARY'S COUNTY

You will recall that for the past two years we have received a request from the administrative judge for a second judgeship in St. Mary's County. I have been reluctant to base a request on an expected (not yet existing) need, and the fact that the single judgeship in that jurisdiction had been vacant for almost a year. That vacancy was filled in October, 1999 and so I am confident that our request is based on an actual need, not a predicted one.

We have kept a close watch on our caseload in St. Mary's County and reevaluated our overall needs in this district over the past nine months. As Judge Clagett points out, our court in this locality is operating efficiently at this time. Reviewing the needs of St. Mary's now that the present judgeship is filled and running efficiently, and the needs of the surrounding court locations, I now believe we can easily support a second judge in that area.

From 1997 to 1999, the motor vehicle caseload in St. Mary's County increased from 16,493 cases to 22,638 cases, an increase of 37.3%.⁴ Statistics from the fiscal year concluded on June 30, 2000 show this caseload increasing to 23,055. Based on population per judge, St. Mary's County now ranks near the top in the number of criminal and civil cases filed. Although the civil case filings in this jurisdiction have not increased to a large degree over the past two years, the amount of time that it now takes to hear some of these cases due to our increase in jurisdiction can drastically reduce the amount of time a judge has available to devote to trying other cases.

Until recently, our dockets in Calvert County required that Judge Clagett sit only four days a week in that county. That schedule permitted him to assist in St. Mary's or Charles once a week. The dockets in Calvert County, however, have grown and he is no longer able to handle

⁴1998-1999 Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary, Table DC-3, Comparative Table on Cases Filed Or Processed in the District Court of Maryland.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Page Five
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them without sitting there more often. In the fiscal year just concluded, Calvert County had a total criminal caseload of 2,828, compared to 2,312 cases in FY 98-99. Judge Clagett states that due to heavy caseloads the State's Attorney's Office is finding it increasingly difficult to handle the caseload without excessive plea bargaining. The number of civil filings in Calvert have also increased and are taking a much longer time to hear. We can no longer rely on Judge Clagett to help with St. Mary's County.

Additionally, our caseload in Charles County continues to increase, making it impossible to keep both courtrooms open without the use of a retired judge when one of the resident judges is on vacation or otherwise unable to sit. Their criminal caseload alone has increased from 3,964 cases to 4,365 this fiscal year. Until recently, these judges also traveled and helped in St. Mary's County. Now they cannot. Instead, they need help.

Judge Clagett proposes that one new judge in St. Mary's would allow him to better cover the three courts within District Four: St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles.

For all of the above reasons, I now believe the addition of a judge in St. Mary's County would help us provide better, more timely service to the citizens in that county, as well as provide us with the needed assistance throughout that district. Space exists in St. Mary's County for an additional courtroom, and renovation monies have been added to the budget contingent on the approval of this judgeship.

DISTRICT FIVE - PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

With the exception of Baltimore City, the caseload in Prince George's County is the highest in the state. The domestic violence filings are near equal to those in Baltimore City, and the landlord/tenant caseload does not fall far behind. Recent statistics show from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 that 24,741 criminal cases were filed, again the highest number of cases with the exception of Baltimore City. This jurisdiction has the highest number of motor vehicle cases, totaling 180,486 this past fiscal year. Since the advent of peace orders in October, 1999, filings have been on a steady increase, with a total of 613 such filings in Prince George's County. Statewide, only Baltimore County had a higher number of filings for the same time period.

As stated, Prince George's County has the second largest caseload in the state. Despite the fact that we received a judgeship in that district last year, the enormous burdens being placed on those judges warrants the creation of an additional judgeship. I believe the statistics speak for themselves and support Judge Kratovil's request. There is an existing courtroom and space to accommodate this request.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Page Six
September 6, 2000

DISTRICT SIX - MONTGOMERY COUNTY

You will see from the enclosed supporting documentation that the administrative judge in Montgomery County is asking for the creation of two additional judgeships in this county, based on needs in both the juvenile and regular dockets. After assessing the caseload in this jurisdiction, I would support the creation of one additional judgeship. I offer the following comments:

The majority of their caseload has increased over the past five years, with the number of DWI filings currently being the highest in the state. With the exception of Prince George's County, their overall traffic caseload is the highest, and they are among the jurisdictions in which a record number of peace order petitions are being filed. Domestic violence cases have also increased. As you know, most domestic violence and protective order cases require a minimum of two hearings and remain subject to the Court's oversight for as long as the protective orders are in effect.

The statistics submitted by Judge Vaughey show a slight decrease in the number of civil filings. But, as in other parts of the state, the increase in jurisdiction has necessitated longer trials and placed more demand on the amount of time judges have to try these cases.

Also enclosed is supporting documentation of the needs of the juvenile section. Judge McHugh, who is the Judge-in-Charge of that section, submitted a request last year for a judgeship, but unfortunately his request did not arrive in time to be included with last year's certification. For statistical purposes, however, I have included a copy of that request as well as stats on the increase in juvenile cases for the second half of 1999 and the first half of 2000. The staggering increase in the number of cases, when we were already finding it almost impossible to meet time standards established by law, is cause for great concern.

As you are well aware, Montgomery County is the jurisdiction in which the District Court has juvenile jurisdiction, and we have had several discussions concerning the transfer of that jurisdiction to the circuit court.

I strongly suggest that a plan be implemented this year to begin transfer of juvenile jurisdiction to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. As part of that plan, I suggest the new judicial resources needed be given to the Circuit Court so that that court can begin to assimilate juvenile jurisdiction. The argument in favor of a new judge to help handle the juvenile caseload is compelling and it would, in my opinion, be a step in the wrong direction to put another judge in the District Court for juvenile work when moving juvenile to circuit court is, by far, the ideal goal.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
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I am asking that you request one additional District Court judgeship in Montgomery County to handle the regular dockets there. It is my understanding that the Department of Juvenile Justice will be vacating our Rockville courthouse. That space could then be renovated to accommodate additional courtroom space. Alternatively, there is space available in our Silver Spring location for bare bones renovation for courtroom space. Money has been placed in our budget for either of these options contingent on our receipt of an additional judgeship.

DISTRICT SEVEN - ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Judge Dryden's request echoes that of others around the state in expressing the demands being placed on judges in connection with the increase in civil jurisdiction. The statistics submitted by Judge Dryden show a significant increase in caseload over the past five years, and the average bench time in this district is consistently higher than in any other jurisdiction.

For the past several years Anne Arundel County has followed only Montgomery County in the number of DWI cases. More recent statistics show a total of 7,150 DWI cases this past fiscal year, again trailing only Montgomery County with 7,329 cases.

This jurisdiction ranks fourth in the number of domestic violence cases statewide, and peace orders have had a marked impact since October of last year.

Judge Dryden also expresses his belief that the lack of judges seriously erodes the quality of justice, and I believe he has made a good case for an additional judgeship. But after taken into consideration our judicial needs statewide, I cannot concur with his request at this time. I suspect we will have a more definite need in Anne Arundel County in the not-to-distant future. We will follow our caseload closely, and it might very well be that we will include a request for an additional judgeship in Anne Arundel County in next year's certification request.

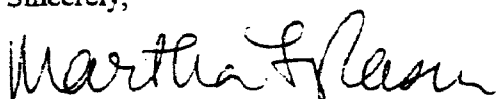
For all of the above reasons, I am asking that you certify a need for five additional District Court judgeships in the following jurisdictions:

District One, Baltimore City	1
District Two, Worcester County	1
District Four, St. Mary's County	1
District Five, Prince George's County	1
District Six, Montgomery County	1

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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha F. Rasin".

Martha F. Rasin

MFR:bja

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Keith E. Mathews
The Honorable John L. Norton, III
The Honorable Stephen L. Clagett
The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil
The Honorable Cornelius J. Vaughey
The Honorable James W. Dryden
Ms. Patricia L. Platt
Mr. Richard W. Clemens
Ms. Lisa I. Ritter

Exhibit C
Draft Legislation

DRAFT LEGISLATION -2001 REGULAR SESSION
JUDGESHIIPS

BILL ORDER

AN ACT concerning

Judgeships — Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Montgomery, Prince George's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City and District Court in Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City.

For the purpose of increasing the number of judges authorized for Circuits 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Montgomery, Prince George's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City) and Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 (Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City); providing for the effect of this Act; and providing for the effective date of this Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments.

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 1-503 (a) (2), (3), (4), (15), (16), and (23) and 1-503 (b) and 1-603 (b) (1), (2), (4), (5), and (6)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments.

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

(11/23/00 Draft)

DRAFT LEGISLATION -2001 REGULAR SESSION
JUDGESHIPs

Section 1-503 (a) (15)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter ____ (SB ____ /HB ____), Sections 1 and 2. of the Acts
of the General Assembly of 2001)

-----Circle

as

appropriate-----

(aed) July 1 effective date

DRAFT LEGISLATION -2001 REGULAR SESSION
JUDGESHIPs

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland shall read as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

1-503.

(a) In each county in the first seven judicial circuits there shall be the number of resident judges of the circuit court set forth below including the judge or judges provided for by the Constitution:

- (2) Anne Arundel - [10] 12
- (3) Baltimore County - [16] 18
- (4) Calvert - [2] 3
- (15) Montgomery - [17] 19
- (16) Prince George's - [23] 25
- (23) Worcester - [2] 3

(b) In Baltimore City there shall be [30] 32 resident judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

1-603.

(b) In each of the districts provided for in § 1-602 of this subtitle, there shall be the following number of associate judges of the District Court:

- (1) District 1 - [26] 27
- (2) District 2 - [5] 6, two to be appointed from Wicomico County AND TWO TO BE APPOINTED FROM WORCESTER COUNTY
- (4) District 4 - [4] 5, two to be appointed from Charles County AND TWO TO BE APPOINTED FROM ST. MARY'S COUNTY

DRAFT LEGISLATION -2001 REGULAR SESSION
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(5) District 5 - [13] 14

(6) District 6 - [13] 14

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland shall read as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

1-503.

(a) In each county in the first seven judicial circuits there shall be the number of resident judges of the circuit court set forth below including the judge or judges provided for by the Constitution:

(15) Montgomery - [19] 21

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland shall read as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

1-503.

(a) In each county in the first seven judicial circuits there shall be the number of resident judges of the circuit court set forth below including the judge or judges provided for by the Constitution:

(15) Montgomery - [21] 23

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Sections 5 and 6 of this Act, this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2001.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2001, contingent on the taking effect of Chapter ____ (SB ____/HB ____) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001, and if SB ____/HB ____ does not become effective, Section 2 of this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

(11/23/00 Draft)

DRAFT LEGISLATION -2001 REGULAR SESSION
JUDGESHIPs

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED. That Section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2002, contingent on the taking effect of Chapter ____ (SB ____ /HB ____) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001. and if SB ____ /HB ____ does not become effective, Section 3 of this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

(11/23/00 Draft)

